

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

9 APRIL 1982

Syrian-Iraqi Border Closure

Syria "finds itself forced to close the border with Iraq" to protect the security of Syrian citizens and the stability of their lives, a statement issued by the minister of the interior and broadcast by Damascus television announced. Justifying the closure the minister charged that the Baghdad "regime of killers" has been conspiring against Syria, providing a training base for the Muslim Brotherhood, sending ammunition, explosives and weapons into Syria to kill its people and weaken its defense capability, and training Iraqis for acts of sabotage inside Syria. We are confident that this decision will be temporary because the Iraqi people "will destroy the Baghdad hangman and his agent regime," the interior minister concluded.

An implementation order carried by SANA stated that the closure applies to personnel, cars and trains, taking effect for people and cars on 10 April and for transit vehicles and trains on 15 April.

"The puppet regime of Hafiz al-Asad has taken another step to consolidate its suspect alliance with the Khomeyni regime and Zionism against Iraq," Baghdad radio commented.

Nonaligned Meeting

At the conclusion of a 3-day meeting on Kuwait on means and measures to support the Palestinian struggle, the Nonaligned Countries' Coordination Bureau issued a final statement reported by Kuwait radio. The Middle East problem can be solved only by a comprehensive settlement that includes Israel's complete and unconditional withdrawal from all occupied territories, including Jerusalem, and enables the Palestinians to exercise their rights to return, to self-determination and to establish an independent sovereign state, the statement proclaims. It calls on all states and organizations to assist the Palestinians, led by the PLO, in their struggle to achieve their rights.

After reiterating nonaligned condemnation of any partial or separate solution or any agreement that harms the rights of Arab states or the Palestinians or prevents the liberation of Jerusalem and the occupied territories, the statement expresses concern over attempts to impose the Camp David accords on the Palestinians. The statement also expresses "extreme anxiety" over the deployment of foreign forces in or near nonaligned countries in the Middle East.

Condemning Israel for ignoring UN Security Council resolutions on Jerusalem, the statement calls for convening the Security Council in order to impose against Israel measures provided for in Article VII of the UN Charter. The statement also expresses dissatisfaction with the hostile U.S. attitude toward the PLO and condemns U.S. misuse of the Veto. The statement reaffirms support for Lebanon's independence and expresses anger over Israel's "oppressive and aggressive" measures in the Golan Heights, and "extreme anxiety" over recent events in occupied Palestinian lands.

Agreeing on the statement only after intensive discussions of the Sinai multinational force and the Camp David accords, the delegates deleted criticism of the Sinai force from the final draft, Cairo radio reported, citing AL-AKHBAR.

Lebanon

Lebanese Army Col Qasim Siblini was seriously wounded in an ambush by about 35 members of the Palestinian resistance, a statement by a Lebanese military source read over Beirut radio announced. The statement added that one of Siblini's companions was also wounded.

The Lebanese Army statement is an overt attempt at provoking opposition to the Palestinian resistance, a "responsible" PLO military source responded in a statement broadcast by the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio. Palestinian resistance members intervened, rescued Siblani and protected the lives of his companions, the PLO statement said.

PLO

Sayil Trip -- Staff Brig Gen Sa'ad Sayil, joint forces central operations chief, has left for Damascus to meet with the Syrian Army chief of staff to discuss ways of foiling the goals of any Zionist aggression, Voice of Palestine reported.

Resignation Denial -- The Occupied Homeland Affairs Department in Amman denied reports that Hamid Abu Sittah resigned as head of the Palestinian side in the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee, Amman's AR-RA'Y reported.

Ambassadorial Status in Hanoi -- Vietnam was upgraded PLO representation in Hanoi to ambassadorial level, according to Hanoi radio.

Iran

Qotbzadeh Arrest -- Former Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh and about 10 other people were arrested in Tehran, according to Parisian friends of Qotbzadeh cited by AFP.

Security Situation -- Three terrorists disguised as revolution guards wounded Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Javad Mansuri and killed his chauffeur, IRNA reported. The terrorists, who also wounded one of Mansuri's guards, fled the scene, according to IRNA.

Eight Mojahedin-e Khalq hideouts have been discovered, 11 active members arrested, and 3 others killed, according to an Islamic Revolution Committee announcement broadcast by Tehran radio. Twenty-four Kurdish rebels were killed this week, AFP reported citing KEYHAN. Interior Minister Nateq Nuri has been appointed commander in chief of all forces concerned with security, Tehran radio reported.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Ramadan Statement -- Popular Army Commander in Chief Taha Yasin Ramadan has declared that the Popular Army will have 500,000 fighters by the end of 1982, INA reported.

Hammadi Press Conference -- While we might forgive those Arabs who adopt a neutral stand, we cannot forgive those who support the Iranian enemy, Iraqi Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi stated at a Kuwait press conference reported by KUNA and INA. Hammadi called on Arab countries to discuss the Syrian regime's support for Iran. He also rejected a return to the 1975 Algiers agreement. Alleging that Israel has been supplying Iran with U.S. arms, he accused the United States of not living up to its claimed neutrality.

Velayati Statements -- Iran will not participate in the nonaligned summit conference in Baghdad, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has stated, according to IRNA. Referring to Iran's three conditions of withdrawal, compensation and identification of the aggressor, Velayati noted news media reports that Iraq has accepted the third condition. If this is true, Iraq has started at the wrong end, Velayati declared at a Kuwait press conference reported by IRNA.

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT IN LEBANON DENIED

NC090758 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 Apr 82

[Statement by a "responsible" military source in the Palestinian revolution -- date, place not given]

[Text] The Lebanese Army issued a statement last night accusing the Palestinian resistance of attacking Lieutenant Colonel Siblini at a time when Palestinian resistance members intervened and rescued him, immediately moving him to a hospital. The Palestinian resistance members also protected the lives of the people accompanying him.

It is clear that the statement issued by the army is an overt attempt at instigating against the Palestinian resistance. We have evidence to disprove this allegation.

PLO REPRESENTATIVE: NO WEAPONS IN PARIS BUREAU

NC071135 Paris AFP in English 1114 GMT 7 Apr 82

[Text] Paris, 7 Apr (AFP) -- The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said here today that its Paris bureau carried out "political and diplomatic tasks to the exclusion of all military activities", in reply to charges of involvement in the murder of Israeli diplomat Ya'aqov Bar-Simantov on Saturday.

PLO representative in France Ibrahim as-Sus formally declared: "There are no weapons in our Paris bureau." He said that French police officers who had visited the PLO Paris office could testify to this. Mr as-Sus said that he was confident that the French police would discover not only who had killed Mr Bar-Simantov, but also who had killed eight Palestinians in France.

He openly accused the Israeli secret services of the murder of five Palestinians, including the PLO's first representative in Paris, Mahmud Hamshiri, in 1972.

Mr as-Sus deplored last Monday's demonstration by an estimated 3,000 Jews outside the PLO bureau demanding that it be shut down. "It is grotesque that the sons of people who have been persecuted have turned themselves into executioners," he said.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CALL FOR BEIRUT ELECTIONS

NC081049 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1015 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] At the invitation of the political council of the National Movement in Beirut, the popular and nationalist forces council and the Islamic organizations and the bureau of the people's conference in Beirut, a mass rally will be held in the Concorde movie house at 1600 [1400 GMT] today. The rally will be within the framework of the current preparations for the local people's councils elections.

The National Movement command has invited the citizens in Beirut to attend this rally which will be held under the slogan "The establishment of local councils is the demand of every nationalist, honest Beirut citizen."

The national organizations have renewed their invitation for nominations on 9 and 10 April provided that the elections are to be held 19 April.

MILITARY COUNCIL ON 'ZIONIST THREATS,' RESPONSE

NC080732 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0530 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] The supreme military council of the Palestinian revolution held an emergency meeting last night in presence of Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief and member of Fatah Central Committee, to review the Zionist threats being repeated by Israeli leaders in addition to the information available about the hostile intentions and the Zionist military concentrations and movements which are being reinforced in the occupied northern Palestine.

The supreme military council also reviewed the heroic stand of the masses of our people inside the occupied homeland and their heroic upsurge against the military occupation, the civil administration and the Zionist autonomy plot.

The council adopted several important decisions for increasing the continuous preparations as a precaution against the expected aggression.

Discusses Southern Lebanon

NC090822 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 Apr 82

[Text] The higher military council of the Palestinian revolution held a meeting under the chairmanship of brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], during which it discussed the current situation in southern Lebanon in light of the Zionist military reinforcements and concentrations and the naval siege of the Lebanese shores. The higher military council adopted a number of decisions and measures to deal with the current situation in all its aspects. The council also regards its session as constantly open.

ISLAMIC COMMITTEE LEAVES UAE FOR IRAN

GF081645 Manama WAKH in English 1625 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] Dubayy, 8 Apr (WAKH) -- The Islamic Conference delegation assigned to mediate between Iraq and Iran will visit the two Muslim warring states to report to them the decision adopted by the Islamic symposium which took place in Colombo from 26 to 28 March in which the two countries were called on to bring an end to their 18-month-old war.

Dr Ma'ruf ad-Dawalibi, chairman of the international Islamic Conference and member of the delegation, said Iraq and Iran have welcomed the delegation's mediation mission saying that it will boost the efforts of the Islamic good will mission set up by the Islamic summit conference. He added that the delegation will listen to the view of each party and expressed the hope that the two countries will resolve their dispute through peaceful means.

The Islamic mediation delegation led by Mohammed Hanifah Mohammed, Sri Lankan minister of communications and Islamic affairs [name and title as received], left here for Tehran later today.

The delegation which arrived here yesterday from Karachi, Pakistan, comprises Dr. Ma'ruf ad-Dawalibi and Haydar al-Husayni, secretary general of the Karachi-based Islamic Conference.

FATAH LEADERS RESPOND TO ISRAELI 'THREATS'

JN071739 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1615 GMT 7 Apr 82

[Text] Zionist threats to invade southern Lebanon have increased in tone. After the statements made by Shamir, Begin and his ministers held an urgent meeting with the Labor Party leaders. Today, enemy Chief of Staff General Eytan reiterated his threats to attack Lebanon if a fedayeen operation such as hurling a bomb or setting off explosive charges is carried out in the occupied territory.

Such threats and Zionist claims that the cease-fire agreement in the south includes military operations inside the occupied territory do not scare the Palestinian revolution and will not affect its decision to continue the armed struggle against the enemy in the occupied territory, in addition to the revolution's continuous readiness to face and repulse any aggression. This was confirmed by Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], Fatah Central Committee member and deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces; and Brother Abu al-Walid [Sa'd Sayil], Fatah Central Committee member and chief of central operations of the joint forces.

Brother Abu Jihad announced that the Palestinian revolution is ready to face all forms of Zionist aggression, including an attack on Beirut. He added that the commanders of the Zionist military establishment will pay a heavy price for any attack they embark on because the Palestinian forces are ready to face such an attack and have the right of self-defense.

Brother Abu Al-Walid affirmed that the incident involving the assassination of the Zionist diplomat in Paris was perpetrated by Israeli intelligence to create an excuse to launch an aggression against the PLO and southern Lebanon. He said that the methods of intimidation and psychological warfare pursued by the enemy commanders will not intimidate the PLO or hamper the Palestinian people's determination to achieve all their rights and establish their own independent state. He asserted that our military forces are ready to face any Zionist aggression.

Regarding the circumstances attending the declaration of the cease-fire late last July, Brother Abu al-Walid said: What prompted the PLO to agree to the cease-fire through the UN secretary general and the chairman of the Security Council at the time was its desire to fulfill the wishes of the Lebanese nationalist masses in southern Lebanon. He added: The PLO agreed to the cease-fire under the following conditions:

1. The cease-fire applies to southern Lebanon only. It does not under any circumstance include the occupied territory or other Arab borders.
2. The PLO considers the border strip to be under Israeli occupation. It does not accept using Sa'd Haddad or any other quarter as cover.
3. Israel shall stop all hostile activities against Lebanon whether by land, sea or air.

These were the conditions which the PLO presented to the United Nations.

Brother Abu al-Walid continued: Our military strength has proved that we are fully capable of directing painful blows at, and inflicting losses upon, the army of the Israeli enemy. At the same time, we are committed before our Arab nation, free men of the world and friendly and peace-loving states that the PLO and its military forces will uphold their military honor and that of the Arab nation. These forces will spare no effort in repulsing any Israeli aggression regardless of its capacity and dimensions. He said: Israel's methods and continuous excessive threats will not scare the PLO and its military force. Since the beginning of our revolution, we have sacrificed ourselves for one of two things: martyrdom or victory. This is the nature of the Palestinian military forces.

GULF AFFAIRSGCC TO FORM PERMANENT MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE

GF071354 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1125 GMT 7 Apr 82

[Excerpt] Manama, 7 Apr (WAKH) -- GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah has announced that the GCC planning ministers conference has recommended that a permanent ministerial committee under the name of "Social and Economic Planning Committee" be formed. Mr Bisharah said this committee will evaluate and follow up the policy of integration among the GCC members and will outline the next stages according to the priorities that will be agreed upon. It will also lay down the basis for solid joint projects in the GCC countries which will be implemented by the concerned authorities.

This came in a press conference Mr Bisharah held in Manama today in which he read the final statement of the GCC planning ministers conference, which ended in Manama yesterday.

'MAJOR' GCC PANEL TO MEET IN KUWAIT 18 APR

LD072332 Kuwait KUNA in English 1456 GMT 7 Apr 82

[Text] Kuwait, 7 April (KUNA) -- A major panel will open here later this month to discuss new aspects of inter-Gulf cooperation.

The three day panel -- opening at Kuwait University on April 18 -- will study eleven research papers, including one by the GCC secretary general, Abdullah Bishara on the conceptions of Gulf cooperation before and after the establishment of the cooperation council.

Other papers will deal with employment, Gulf security, petroleum policies, a unified monetary system and food security.

The panel will also review reports on the Gulf need for a technology base, means of utilizing other Arab experience as well as the experiment of the European Common Market.

BAHRAINPROSECUTION CONCLUDES CASE IN COUP TRIAL

GF061115 Dubayy KHALEEL TIMES in English 6 Apr 82 p 1

[From our correspondent]

[Text] Manama -- The trial of the 73 people charged with plotting a coup was again adjourned yesterday at the request of the defence. The trial had resumed yesterday after a nine-day adjournment.

The prosecution yesterday concluded its case which consisted of written submissions after which the defence requested an adjournment to prepare its submissions.

The 73 have all confessed to belonging to an illegal organisation. Most of them have been charged with illegal possession of guns, ammunition and explosives and two have been charged with "anti-state activities in the service of a foreign state."

Prosecution evidence consisted of statements by the accused to the police, confessions before the investigation judge and books published in Tehran.

The prosecution has sought the death penalty pointing out that the 73 are all over 18 years of age. The defence, citing birth certificates, has contended that some of the accused are teenagers. It has also been submitted that the penal code amendments which came into force on March 4 this year do not apply to the case as the offences took place in December last year. Bahraini criminal law has no retrospective factor and the death penalty applies to people over 18.

Two or three more weekly hearings are likely to be held before the judges pronounce their verdict on various interpretations. The trial is being held in the tiny fishing village of Jaww, about 20 km south of Manama on the east coast, under strict security.

Lawyers were allowed to meet their clients for two and a half hours last week and further requests for some more meetings were turned down yesterday.

KUWAIT

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON NONALIGNED CONFERENCE

Hammadi Press Conference

LD081510 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1407 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] Kuwait, 8 Apr (KUNA) -- Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi has rejected any return to the 1975 Algiers agreement between his country and Iran, which deals in part with the division of the Shatt al-'Arab waters between the two countries. He said that the agreement "was imposed on Iraq by force and in no way can there be any return to it because Iran has failed to respect it."

Speaking at a press conference here today, Dr Hammadi, who is attending the meetings of the Nonaligned Coordination Bureau here, said that "The Iraqi-Iranian war was started to protect Arab lands and Arab existence in this area." He asked: "What would have happened had Iraq not stood up to check the Iranian plague after the former shah of Iran had turned Iran into a strong military arsenal and after Iran had revealed its intentions in the area anew?"

Dr Hammadi added that "the entire area was threatened. The Iranian regime has threatened to seize the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, the Gulf and Iraq to establish what it called the Islamic state and the rule of the clergy."

Speaking of the recent battles on the Dezful front, Dr Hammadi said "what happened recently was the result of information we had received to the effect that the Iranian side was planning military action on the Dezful front, so the Iraqi forces rose to anticipate such an action by launching a 2-stage attack on the Iranians, which caused 25,000 Iranian deaths, according to conservative estimates, as well as the destruction of about 58 intact tanks. One hundred more tanks were destroyed in addition to other losses caused by the effectiveness of the Iraqi air forces, which dominated the skies of the battle."

Dr Sa'dun Hammadi commented on the Iraqi military command's decision to reorganize its forces by moving backward, saying the command "had found it better to reorganize its positions and to take up new defensive positions. This necessitated withdrawal for a short distance and taking up positions stronger than the earlier positions."

He renewed his country's declaration that "it will withdraw from the Iranian territories once it secures its rights and that [retreating from] a few kilometers of land is of no significance. What is important is the fact that the enemy has been suffering large-scale losses in material and manpower, while our losses were on a smaller scale."

He affirmed that the recent battles have been "in favor of Iraq and that Iran has suffered 25,000 killed." He cast doubt on Iranian reports on the battles. He declined to predict when the Iraqi-Iranian war will end, saying it could end within a year, a month or perhaps tomorrow. He pointed out that the big powers are playing a role in one form or another.

On the Arab attitude toward the war, Dr Hammadi said: "While we might forgive those Arabs who adopt a neutral stand, we cannot forgive those who aligned with the Iranian enemy."

Speaking of the efforts being exerted to settle the Iraqi-Iranian conflict, Dr Sa'dun Hammadi pointed out: "These efforts are being conducted with (?good) intentions, and though they have not made any progress toward solving the problem, they have not failed either."

On the possibility of a meeting between him and his Iranian counterpart, Dr Hammadi said: "As far as we are concerned, we have no objection to such a meeting."

The Iraqi foreign minister said the attitude of the Arab Gulf countries toward the Iraqi-Iranian war is "good, but could have been better. However, our relations with the Arab Gulf countries are cordial and fraternal."

He accused "the United States of not keeping away from the field of the war despite its claims that it has been maintaining a neutral stand, as can be seen from the fact that Israel has been supplying Iran with U.S. arms." (?He welcomed) all initiatives from any Arab source -- official or popular -- for ending this war.

On the question of the border between Iraq and Kuwait, Dr Hammadi said: [Words indistinct] and there is no problem concerning this matter."

He said that his country's economic condition is good despite the huge war expenditure. He attributed this to the continued export of Iraqi oil during the war.

He also said that his country is continuing its negotiations with France for the rebuilding of the Iraqi nuclear reactor that was struck last year.

On the question of holding the nonaligned summit conference in Baghdad in September, Dr Hammadi said that the summit "will be held at the fixed place and time and Iran's call for moving its venue from Baghdad has failed to meet with any support from any source. All the influential countries of the movement support holding it at the fixed place and time."

He rejected the claim that the Iraqi-Iranian war has had any effect on the Palestine question, particularly since "there is no just solution on the horizon. Furthermore, in its war with Iran, Iraq has been forced to mobilize its military forces and is now much stronger militarily than it was before. This is good for the Palestine cause."

He denied that Egypt is sending military or nonmilitary supplies to Iraq, pointing out that Iraq previously bought some hardware from Egypt and paid for it during the days of former President Anwar as-Sadat.

He reaffirmed the Arab condition that Egypt's return to the Arab ranks is dependent on the Egyptian regime's abandonment of the Camp David agreements.

He said Iraq's relations with the USSR are "good. The USSR's official attitude is declared: It is based on neutrality in the war and encourages all efforts to put an end to the war."

INA on Press Conference

JN081424 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1325 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] Kuwait, 8 Apr (INA) -- Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi has called upon the Arab countries to discuss the Syrian regime's support for the Iranian enemy in its war against Iraq. Dr Hammadi added that the Arabs must give serious consideration to this grave situation resulting from the Syrian regime's policy, which is aimed at dismantling Arab ranks. This situation, Dr Hammadi said, concerns not only Iraq but also the future of the Arab nation.

In a press conference he held here today, Mr Hammadi said that it is regrettable that the Syrian regime has chosen the direct, wide road of cooperation with the Iranian regime. The Syrian regime, Dr Hammadi added, has thus deviated from the minimum acceptable in Arab relations. Dr Hammadi recalled the Syrian regime's material and military aid to the mutiny in northern Iraq, whose relationship with the United States and the Zionist entity was exposed.

Dr Hammadi said that Iraq's war against Iran is in defense of the Arab land and existence. Therefore, it is impermissible for any Arab country to support the Iranian enemy. He added: If we are tolerant to those Arabs who adopt neutrality, we can not be so to those who support the Iranian enemy. He added that Iraq has on so many occasions declared its readiness, and continues to do so, to stop the war, asserting that Iraq does not covet Iranian land. Dr Hammadi said: We want to ensure the security of our borders and non-intervention in Iraq's domestic affairs and those of the Arab Gulf.

Alluding to the efforts being exerted by the international and Islamic organizations and the Nonaligned Movement to solve the Iraqi-Iranian dispute, Dr Hammadi said these organizations have good will and have exerted efforts to end the war. Although these organizations have made no progress, they have not failed.

On reports concerning a meeting with the Iranian foreign minister, Dr Hammadi said: We have heard about these efforts and I was asked if there is any possibility of my meeting with the Iranian foreign minister. As far as we are concerned we have no objection to that.

On the Arab countries' stand toward the war, Dr Hammadi said: In principle, we believe that it is incumbent upon the Arabs to participate in every pan-Arab battle. Iraq is now waging a pan-Arab battle that pertains to the safety of Iraq's territory and that of the Arab Gulf region. Asked about the Arab Gulf states' stand toward the war, Dr Hammadi said: It is a good one, but could possibly be better. Nevertheless, our relations are fraternal and friendly with the Arab Gulf states.

Dr Hammadi is currently in Kuwait to represent Iraq at the extraordinary meeting of the Nonaligned Countries' Coordination Bureau.

Sri Lankan Minister's Speech

GF081254 Dubayy KHALEEL TIMES in English 8 Apr 82 p 5

["Text" of address given by Sri Lankan Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdul Carder Shahul Hameed at the meeting of the Nonaligned Movement's Coordination Bureau in Kuwait on 7 April 1982]

[Text] The Middle East is a region which gave birth to three great world religions. It has been the cradle of noble spiritual and human values that have inspired millions of people through the centuries. It is a tragic irony that this region is today denied peace and serenity. The eminent historian, Arnold Toynbee, observed that "the tragedy in Palestine is not just a local one, it is a tragedy for the world, because it is an injustice that is a menace to the world's peace." The search for peace in the Middle East must therefore begin with securing justice for the Palestinian people.

The question of Palestine is the crux, the centre, the core of the Middle East question. We in Sri Lanka have long identified ourselves with the struggle of the Palestinians. On the day of international solidarity with the Palestinian people last year, the president of Sri Lanka, His Excellency JR Jayewardene, gave an unambiguous expression of our stand on this issue:

"No solution of the Middle East conflict will be just or lasting unless it ensures the exercise by the Palestinian people of their inalienable national rights, including the right to return, to self-determination, to establish an independent state in Palestine, a pre-requisite to which is the withdrawal by Israel from all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories."

Following the 1967 war and the illegal occupation by Israel of Arab territories, the government of Sri Lanka suspended ties with Israel. Since then we have forsworn all contact with Israel as protest against her policies of occupation and consolidation.

With effect from today, the Government of Sri Lanka has elevated the office of the representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation in Colombo to that of an embassy with full diplomatic status. This is to us, an act of faith, a further practical expression of our solidarity with the people of Palestine.

It stems from our conviction that in the complex cluster of issues that together form the Middle East question, the restoration of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people is the only viable basis upon which a just and enduring solution can be built.

We are meeting at a time when Israeli actions in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza are bringing in their wake, violence, disorder, destruction and death. We must alert ourselves to the danger that Israel may repeat in the Gaza and on the West Bank, what it did in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. Already, Israel has dismissed the democratically elected mayors of Nabulus and Ramallah for their courageous refusal to accept the orders of the occupation administration: an act which speaks eloquently of Palestinian fortitude.

The question of Palestine is an issue which has concerned us even before the birth of the Non-Aligned Movement. Even as far back as the Colombo powers meeting of 1954, which was a precursor to the Bandung conference, and the first Non-Aligned summit in Belgrade, heads of government who met in Colombo nearly 30 years ago expressed their deep sympathy with the Arabs of Palestine and "affirmed their support to see a just and early settlement of the Palestine problem."

The Palestinian people have undergone tremendous suffering. The massive political, economic and physical persecution they have heroically endured has however advanced, rather than weakened their struggle: It has heightened, rather than dissipated their unity, and, like steel forged in flame, it has strengthened their determination to redeem their birth right -- an independent sovereign nation state in Palestine. The history of the struggle of the Palestinian people has run parallel to the history of the non-aligned. The movement's stand on Palestine has come to be accepted almost universally. This is a clear vindication, not only of the validity of the non-aligned approach to the question, but also of the justice of the Palestinian cause.

The cause of Palestine is indivisible from the Middle East question, no fragmentary or partial settlement can bring about peace in Palestine or in the Middle East. A just and enduring peace can be based only on the total withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories.

The Nazi holocaust took a terrible toll of European Jewry. A repercussion of that persecution was to bring great suffering to Palestinian Arabs who accounted for 90 per cent of Palestine's population, leading to their displacement and uprooting them from their homes and their lands.

The United Nations partition resolution of 1948 gave over one half of the territory of Palestine to an essentially immigrant minority population of recent origin, destroying, in the process, the religious tolerance that for long years had existed between Muslims, Christians and Jews. Over the years, this immigrant population, through systematically pursued policies, including military aggression and colonisation, has usurped territories far beyond even what was allotted to it in the partition resolution.

Israel's expansion was effected through military action, its subsequent entrenchment was achieved through a carefully applied plan of settler-colonisation, its hold is buttressed by a repressive regime and its stay is tainted with the violation of the political, economic and human rights of the Palestinians. These policies and actions have made Israel an object of universal condemnation.

An Israeli representative once stated that "Israel was the only state in the world which had sprung into existence at the summons of the international community". The resolution which admitted Israel into the United Nations noted the declaration by the state of Israel that it "unreservedly accepts the obligations of the United Nations Charter and undertakes to honour them, from the day when it becomes a member of the United Nations."

This child of the United Nations, for all its cynical lip-service to the United Nations Charter has more violations of the Charter to its discredit than any other state. In arrogant disregard of the entire world community, Israel has illegally proceeded to impose her laws, jurisdiction and administration over the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. Israel has committed vicious acts of aggression against other Arab states -- Iraq and Lebanon in particular, and Israel has with impunity invaded the air-space of these and other Arab states.

The United Nations and the non-aligned have repeatedly condemned Israel but with what effect?

Israel stands guilty of political, economic and human rights violations in the occupied territories. The United Nations has identified among these the illegal establishment of Israeli settlement, the expulsion and deportation of indigenous Palestinians, the expropriation of property, the destruction of homes, the denial of the right of Palestinians to return to their homeland, mass arrests, ill-treatment and torture, armed attacks against defenceless civilians and interference with religious freedoms and practices as well as violations of basic family rights.

In 1974, Chariman Yasir 'Arafat of the Palestine Liberation Organisation came to the United Nations bearing, as he said, "an olive branch and a freedom fighter's gun". He appealed to the international community, on that historic occasion, not to let the olive branch fall from his hands. It has required tremendous courage, great maturity and sense of responsibility to hold that olive branch aloft when all that Israel has offered are the aggressor's gun and the oppressor's boot. We salute Yasir 'Arafat and all the courageous men, women and children who have stood with him and fought for the liberation of their lands, their homes, their places of worship -- indeed all that makes them Palestinians -- from the Israeli oppressor. We salute the Palestine Liberation Organisation which has transformed the struggle of a dispossessed people into a truly heroic liberation movement.

The question of Palestine has been on the agenda of non-aligned meetings from the inception of the movement. This is the first time that non-aligned ministers are devoting their attention at a conference exclusively to the consideration of the question of Palestine. This meeting cannot adjourn with more expressions of solidarity or fervent prayer....

To four million Palestinians and the many millions in the non-aligned world, Palestine is more, very much more, than an idea, it is real, and its time has come. Thank you.

Syria's Qaddur Address

JN081456 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] Kuwait -- Assistant Foreign Minister Nasir Qaddur has stressed the commitment of revolutionary Syria, the Arab nation and all the nonaligned countries to the Palestine cause and the Palestinian people's struggle to restore their rights and determine their destiny.

Delivering Syria's speech yesterday in the extraordinary meeting of the Nonaligned Coordination Bureau, Qaddur stressed that our kinfolk's uprising in the Golan, the West Bank and Gaza Strip clearly embodies the determination of our Arab people to reject all annexation and Judaization attempts and conspiracies. described the Zionist Golan annexation decision as a blatant challenge to all international laws and conventions.

Qaddur condemned the U.S. stand in support of Israel. He also denounced the treasonous Camp David accords which have achieved for Israel the expansion it wants. He praised the nonaligned countries' support for the Palestinian people's struggle and their condemnation of Zionist practices in the occupied territories.

Concluding his speech, Qaddur called on the conferees to adopt firm and effective decisions to enable the Palestinian people to restore their full inalienable rights.

Velayati on Arab Relations

JN081255 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] Kuwait -- Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has described his country's relations with the Arab countries as good. He said that these relations are based on mutual cooperation. The exceptions, he said, are those Arab countries which have relations with the Zionist enemy such as the ruling Egyptian regime and those allied with it. In an interview with the SANA correspondent in Kuwait, Dr Velayati asserted the need to exert efforts in order to find a just and lasting solution to the Middle East question.

Velayati's Press Conference

LD081952 Tahran IRNA in English 1622 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] Kuwait, 7 April (IRNA) -- The Iranian foreign minister, Dr. Velayati reiterated here today that the Islamic Republic of Iran had good relations with the Arab countries, except with those which held ties with the Zionist regime. As an example, Foreign Minister Velayati referred to the mutual friendly ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Arab Emirates and noted that despite the claims of Iran and the United Arab Emirates, Iran and the UAE had no differences. The foreign minister, who is currently attending a conference of the Coordination Office of the Non-Aligned Movement here, said that the result of the conference was good, but he added that "nevertheless, all the Muslims should take up arms and make Israel understand the reality."

Speaking in a press conference to foreign reporters here, the Iranian foreign minister, referring to the Iraqi imposed war, stressed that "The leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran have come to the conclusion that Iraq understands no language other than brute force."

Referring to the recent victories achieved by the Muslim defenders of Iran during the Fath operation and the capturing of over 15,000 Iraqi troops, including 300 top-ranking Iraqi Army officers, Dr. Velayati called for international organisations to travel to Iran and see for themselves the achievements of the Iranian victories "as many foreign journalists have done so and have personally viewed evidence of the Iranian victories."

The foreign minister, reiterating Iran's three terms for peace, namely the unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi troops, the payment of compensation and the recognition of the aggressor, stated that he had learned through the news media and not officially that Iraq had accepted the third condition of Iran; and he further commented, "If so, I must say that Iraq has started from the wrong place." He then mocked the allegations by the Iraqi regime that its army had achieved victories in the war and said that these lies of the Iraqi regime were disclosed particularly when one knew that since the outbreak of the imposed war there were only 2,400 Iranian POWs in Iraq who were mainly civilians.

Regarding the issue of Palestine, the Iranian foreign minister stressed that the regime occupying Al-Quds [Jerusalem] was a usurper and that as long as it did not withdraw from the Palestinian lands, negotiations were meaningless, as it was the case in the Iraq-Iran conflict.

Libya: 'Direct U.S. Threats'

LD091056 Tripoli JANA in English 0930 GMT 9 Apr 82

[Text] Kuwait, 9 Apr (JANA) -- The Libyan Arab delegation to the extra-ordinary meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Group, has revealed the aggressive nature of the U.S. policy against the peace-loving peoples' struggling for freedom and emancipation led by the Libyan Arab people which is daily exposed to direct U.S. threats.

The Libyan delegate briefed the participants on the series of U.S. hostilities against the Libyan people including violation of Libyan airspace and territorial waters by U.S. forces last August and the intended U.S. military manoeuvres in the Libyan Gulf of Sidra in the next six months. This is in addition to the U.S. announced economic blockade on Libya whether by withdrawing the American oil experts or by boycotting the purchase of Libyan oil and banning export of necessary equipment for oil exploration and production.

All this, the delegate added, uncover the hostile policy and attitude of the U.S.A. against a member of the Non-Aligned group which is required to strongly condemn such U.S. attitude.

He reminded of the historic role of the Non-Aligned Movement in supporting the causes of freedom everywhere and backing the peoples struggling for their rights.

The Libyan delegate added that the jamahiriyah is looking forward for more practical and clear stands in support of the Palestinian Arab people against all the schemes to liquidate them and their cause, mainly Camp David accords and the other suspicious defeatist plans.

This meeting which includes the majority of world countries is able to squeeze a unified stand that leads to the isolation of the Israeli entity in the international organizations and confirms the justice of the Palestinian struggle and rights, he went on.

"While we are meeting now," he added, "the Palestinian people inside the occupied land are waging a fierce confrontation with the occupation forces. The unarmed women and children are facing the Israeli guns and tanks, as demonstration of absolute rejection of the occupation and determination to get their right of a decent life."

He went on to say that the Israeli terrorist, criminal and suppressive practices inside occupied Palestine and Arab territories are considered flagrant violation of the basic human rights defined in the international and divine norms, laws and legislations.

The Libyan delegate told the audience that the Israelis are continuing their crimes and aggressive and expansionist plots through the annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights, imposing [words indistinct] there and armed aggression on Lebanon violating its sovereignty and threatening its security and safety.

This is all done in defiance of the world public opinion, he added, and the resolutions of the international organizations which repeatedly condemned the Israeli expansionist practices.

He concluded that Israel is based on aggression, expansion and constant violation of international charters with the full backing of unlimited support from the U.S.A. in all the political, military, economic and U.N. fields.

The U.S. veto in the resolutions endorsed by the international community against Israel, he said, reveals the reality of the U.S. stand in support of the Israeli entity which encourages it to commit more crimes and expand more on the expense of the Arab people.

Egypt's UN Representative

NC081826 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] Kuwait, 8 Apr (MENA) -- Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egypt's permanent UN representative and head of its delegation to the Nonaligned Coordination Bureau Conference which is currently being held in Kuwait, has affirmed that Egypt's policy is being maintained and will not change either before or after the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS today, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that the Arabs have not asked Egypt to abandon the Camp David accords as a condition for reconciliation with them. He affirmed that Egypt will not look back and will not enter into conflicts and wrangles. It also does not want to monopolize peace or try to impose solutions on anyone.

He said that Egypt's concept of a comprehensive and just solution of the Palestinian problem is based on the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and their right to establish their own independent state on their land. He denounced the suppressive Israeli measures against the Palestinian people inside the occupied lands.

Regarding the Sinai multinational force, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that it will have specific tasks and that Egypt needs it as a substitute to the UN peacekeeping forces since it has been decided to deploy such a force in the Sinai.

In another interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y Al-'AM, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid affirmed that Egypt's policy toward the Arab states is open-minded because Egypt is a principal part of the Arab nation. There is no doubt that the reunion with the Arab brothers will inevitably take place. He pointed out that Egypt has not made any conditions for its return to the Arab fold and that it will not accept conditions being imposed because it has been proved that by virtue of its weight and role Egypt is an important factor in the Arab area.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid pointed out that the attempts to suspend Egypt's membership in the Non-aligned Movement which took place at the Havana summit in 1979 did not succeed and have not been repeated because Egypt is a founding member of the Nonaligned Movement and attempts of this kind are bound to fail.

He said that the disagreement between Egypt and Israel concerning the Tabah area involves no more than 1 square kilometer. He stated that this will not cause a delay in the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai. He expressed his belief that Israel would honor its commitments and obligations. He added that the opposition parties in Egypt understand all the dimensions of Egyptian policy because of President Husni Mubarak's clear and frank method in pursuit of the country's interests.

'Arafat on Israeli 'Plots'

NC081320 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1245 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] In Kuwait, Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] yesterday visited the Palestinian legacy exhibition where he was welcomed by Brother Abu al-Adib [Salim az-Za'nun], member of the Fatah Central Committee and head of the PLO office in Kuwait, the Kuwait Area Committee, The Palestinian arts unions and masses of Palestinian and Arab students.

Addressing those present, Brother Abu 'Ammar greeted the heroic upsurge of our steadfast masses in the occupied territory against the plots for Judaization and colonization. Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar said: In the name of the steadfast people we tell Begin and his friend Reagan that his military machinery will not terrorize us and your concentrations and threats will not frighten us.

He added: Our people and our fighters in the joint forces will foil the plot of Camp David and the civil administration. He said: We are not alone in the battle trench. Free Arabs and honest men in the world support us.

'Arafat Meetings

NC071100 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1015 GMT 7 Apr 82

[Text] In Kuwait, Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has met with the Indian foreign minister who conveyed to him an official invitation from Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to visit India.

Abu 'Ammar has met with the Korean foreign minister who handed him a special message from President Kim Il-Song affirming his country's support of our people's just struggle.

Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar has met with the Cuban foreign minister who conveyed to him a message from President Castro fully supporting and backing the heroic struggle of our people inside and outside the occupied homeland.

PLO's Qaddumi Comments

LD090902 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0708 GMT 9 Apr 82

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 9 Apr (KUNA) -- Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has again warned of an imminent Israeli attack on southern Lebanon. Speaking at a press conference held in Kuwait last night, he said Israel is massing forces along southern Lebanon, a fact which shows that it is about to embark on aggression against southern Lebanon.

Qaddumi was speaking after Coordination Bureau of the nonaligned states had ended its extraordinary meeting. The meeting's final statement expresses support for the struggle of the PLO against Israel and strongly condemns Israel.

The Palestinian official pointed out that the PLO accepts the return of Egypt to the Arab fold, provided it abandons the Camp David accords with Israel and the United States. Qaddumi said that a four-man mediation committee from the Nonaligned Movement will meet today to discuss the possibility of visiting Iraq and Iran, which have been engaged in war for the past 19 months. The committee, which includes the foreign ministers of Cuba, India and Zambia, as well as Qaddumi, carried out consultations during the bureau's meetings.

Qaddumi said that the Nonaligned Committee is coordinating -- indirectly -- with another mediation committee set up by the Islamic Conference Organization for the same purpose. He warned that the Iraqi-Iranian war has direct consequences to the Arab region as a whole, that the only beneficiary would be the Zionist enemy and U.S. imperialism, and that it is harmful to both the Iraqi and the Iranian people.

He described relations between the Palestinian resistance and Iran as good and said that the revolution is maintaining these relations.

Qaddumi said that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is not planning to visit France at present, particularly following the visit of French President Francois Mitterrand to Israel, a visit not approved by the organization. He pointed out that the organization has informed Paris "that this visit has diminished France's role in its contribution to solving the Middle East crisis." He described the participation of France and other European states in the Sinai Force as a "foolish" act through which the United States aims at providing "a European cover for U.S. participation in the Camp David accords."

Bureau's Final Statement

LD081810 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] The extraordinary session of the Nonaligned Coordination Bureau ended at the Holiday Inn this evening. The meeting lasted 3 days and concerned the best means and necessary measures to support the struggle of the Palestinian people.

The conference issued a statement on its meetings which included a number of resolutions and recommendations. The meeting confirmed that the Palestine and Middle East problems could only be solved through a comprehensive and just settlement which includes Israel's complete, comprehensive and unconditional withdrawal from all the Palestinian territories and other occupied Arab territories including Jerusalem, and the freedom of the Palestinians to exercise their right to return to their homes and property.

The meeting called for granting the Palestinian people their inalienable rights in Palestine and their free exercising, including the right to self-determination without external interference, the right to national independence and sovereignty, and the establishment of their independent and sovereign state. The nonaligned foreign ministers expressed support for the UN committee in charge of the Palestinian people's exercise of its inalienable rights. The ministers called on all states and organizations to assist and facilitate the steps of the Palestinian people, led by the PLO, so that they may continue their efforts and legitimate struggle by all means to achieve the free exercising of their inalienable rights.

The final communique of the Nonaligned Coordination Bureau pointed out that the 6th summit of the Nonaligned Movement supported the right of the PLO and the Arab countries to reject and oppose any solution or settlement which harms the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people or the liberation of all the occupied Arab lands. The communique repeated the condemnation by the nonaligned states of any partial or separate solution and of any agreement which harms the rights of Arab states and the Palestinian people and which infringes upon the principles and resolutions of the Nonaligned Movement and the United Nations, or which prevents the liberation of Jerusalem and the occupied Palestinian and Arab lands.

The ministers expressed extreme anxiety over recent events and developments in the occupied Palestinian lands. They also expressed their concern over the attempts and measures aimed at imposing the Camp David agreements on the Palestinian people. They expressed their extreme anxiety over the deployment of foreign forces in nonaligned countries in the Middle East or near them. They confirmed the need to adhere totally to the principles and criteria of nonalignment in this respect.

The meeting also condemned Israel for completely ignoring the Security Council resolutions concerning Jerusalem, and approved the call for convening the Security Council in order to impose the measures, provided for in the seventh chapter of the UN Charter, on Israel for its nonimplementation of the Security Council resolutions, thus exposing international peace and security to danger.

The statement expressed the dissatisfaction of the nonaligned with the hostile attitude of the United States to the PLO and condemned its use of the veto to prevent the Security Council from taking measures supporting the Palestinian people's achievement of their inalienable rights.

The statement reaffirmed the support of the nonaligned for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence of Lebanon. It also expressed the anger of the nonaligned over the oppressive and aggressive measures used by Israel against Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights.

The final statement included an action program which again confirms the total and unconditional support of the nonaligned for the struggle of the Palestinian people led by the PLO. The meeting also endorsed a resolution of appreciation for the government and people of Kuwait for the generous welcome accorded them during the meeting.

Sinai Force Criticism Deletion

NC090847 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 9 Apr 82

[From the press review]

[Text] In connection with the concluding statement issued by the Nonaligned Coordination Bureau in Kuwait, AL-AKHBAR reports that the delegations to the conference of the non-aligned states' foreign ministers in Kuwait agreed on the conference's final draft statement following an intensive discussion on the Sinai multinational peacekeeping force and the Camp David agreements between Egypt and Israel. At the same time, AL-AKHBAR elucidates the decision of the conferees to delete any criticism of the Sinai force from the final draft statement and the conferees' contentment with just voicing concern over some provisions of the Camp David agreements which deal with determining the Palestinian people's future.

UAE PRESIDENT ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

LD050948 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0845 GMT 5 Apr 82

[Text] Kuwait, 5 Apr (KUNA) -- President of the United Arab Emirates Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan arrived here before noon today on a 3-day official visit. Amir of Kuwait Jabir Ahmad as-Sabah led the welcoming party for Shaykh Zayid.

Talks With Amir

LD060946 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0900 GMT 6 Apr 82

[Text] Kuwait, 6 Apr (KUNA) -- The leaders of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, and of the UAE, Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, held talks here today on issues of interest to the two countries. The minister for the Kuwaiti Amiri Bureau Shaykh Khalid al-Ahmad as-Sabah announced that the talks "dealt with the existing firm fraternal relations between the two sister countries in addition to issues concerning the Arabian Gulf region and Arab world developments." He said that "A fraternal atmosphere distinguished by total understanding and cordiality" prevailed during the talks."

Joint Communique Issued

LD071244 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 Apr 82

[Joint communique issued at conclusion of UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan's 5-7 April visit to Kuwait]

[Text] With a view to strengthening the close fraternal ties between the State of Kuwait and the UAE, and at the invitation of his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Shaykh Zayid Sultan al-Nuhayyan paid a visit to Kuwait from 5 to 7 April 1982. His highness the guest amir and the accompanying delegation were accorded a warm popular and official welcome in keeping with the deep historical links and the ties of cordiality and love linking the two countries and their two fraternal peoples.

In an atmosphere of complete fraternal understanding, official talks between the two sides were held during this visit, chaired on the UAE side by His Highness Shaykh Zayid Sultan al-Nuhayyan, and on the Kuwaiti side by His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah. The talks covered relations between the two fraternal countries, the situation in the region, and current Arab and international issues.

Reviewing bilateral relations, the two sides showed their complete satisfaction with the character of the fruitful cooperation between the two fraternal countries and with its growth in various areas -- political, economic, cultural, information and others. They reaffirmed their determination to take steps to reinforce and consolidate this cooperation and to expand its scope in order to ensure that the (?aspirations) and hopes of the two fraternal countries are met and to achieve the common interests of the two peoples.

The sides expressed their satisfaction over the achievements to date within the framework of the GCC and its organs. They lauded the pioneering positive role played by the council in strengthening Gulf action and in safeguarding and strengthening the individual capabilities of the states of the region to face up to all challenges and preserve the security, stability and prosperity for their respective peoples without foreign interference.

The two sides discussed the current Arab situation, particularly all aspects of the Palestinian question. In this connection, they examined in particular the development of the popular uprising in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and all the occupied Arab land in confronting the repressive measures taken by the Zionist enemy, and the latter's plans to annex the region, Judaize it and liquidate its nationalist leaders.

They stressed the support of their respective countries for the honorable struggle waged by the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO. They expressed the hope that the decisions of the recent Arab foreign ministers emergency conference in Tunis to back up the resistance of the Palestinian people in the occupied land will be carried out effectively. They reaffirmed the support of their respective countries for all the Arab efforts in this respect. The two sides also expressed their strong denunciation of the positions of the states that had opposed the draft resolutions presented to the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly with the aim of deterring the Israeli enemy and preventing it from continuing its repressive measures and carrying out its expansionist schemes in the occupied land.

The two sides reaffirmed that a comprehensive and just peace in the region cannot be achieved without the withdrawal of the Zionist enemy from all the occupied land, the recovery by the Palestinian people of all their national rights and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, over all its national territory.

The two sides once again declared the support of their respective countries for all efforts to strengthen security and stability and to entrench the bases of national unity in fraternal Lebanon. They expressed the wish to see a unified Arab strategy to protect southern Lebanon and to stand up to the threats to this country from the Zionist enemy.

Concerning Arab relations in general the two sides stressed the great need for consolidating the bases of effective Arab solidarity and the removal of all obstacles to joint Arab action in various fields. They expressed the hope that the meeting of the 12th summit will resume as soon as possible in a constructive fraternal atmosphere so that the Arab nation may be able to take positive decisions to confront the fateful threats to which it is exposed.

The two sides reviewed the current international situation and development of events. Their views on all questions and issues of common interest were identical. They expressed their conviction that establishing the bases of peace and justice and achieving international security and stability are a supreme objective that can be achieved only if all parties to the international community adhere to the UN Charter and principles and shun all aspects of international hegemony.

His highness the president of the UAE praised the great advances Kuwait has achieved in all economic and social fields under the leadership of His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah. He and his accompanying delegation also expressed their extreme appreciation for the warm welcome accorded to them by everyone at all levels.

His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, invited his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah to visit the UAE. His highness accepted the invitation with gratitude and the date of the visit will be decided on later.

Departs 7 Apr

LD071042 Kuwait KUNA in English 1000 GMT 7 Apr 82

[Text] Kuwait, 7 Apr (KUNA) -- President of the UAE Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and the delegation accompanying him left Kuwait at 10 A.M. Wednesday for home at the conclusion of a three-day official visit. The distinguished guest was seen off at Kuwait International Airport by H.H. the amir, H.H. the crown prince and premier, senior state officials and Arab and Islamic ambassadors accredited to Kuwait.

AMIR RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM FIDEL CASTRO

LD071248 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0858 GMT 7 Apr 82

[Text] Kuwait, 7 Apr (KUNA) -- The amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, today received a message from Cuban President Fidel Castro. The contents of the message have not been disclosed. The message was transmitted by Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca at his meeting with Shaykh Jabir earlier today.

YAR

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON TALKS WITH SAUDIS

LD081324 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text of joint communique issued at conclusion of 7-8 April session of Saudi-YAR Joint Coordination Council in San'a']

[Text] Out of the spirit of Arab and Islamic brotherhood and in realization of the aspirations of the two fraternal countries and peoples in the Saudi Arabian Kingdom and the YAR; and in consolidation of the established path of coordination and cooperation between the two countries, the Saudi-YAR Joint Coordination Council held its seventh session in San'a' on 7 and 8 April 1982.

The Saudi side was headed by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, and the Yemeni side was headed by Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani. A spirit of fraternity, amity and trust prevailed at the talks. The following Coordination Council members took part on the Saudi side: His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; His Excellency Shaykh Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy; His Excellency Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, minister of education; His Excellency Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani, minister of information and acting minister of communications; and His Excellency Shaykh Tirad al-Harithi, the kingdom's ambassador to San'a'.

Taking part on the Yemeni side were: His Excellency Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, prime minister; His Excellency Engineer 'Abdallah al-Kurshumi, minister of public works; His Excellency 'Ali Lutfi ath-Thawr, foreign minister; His Excellency Dr Ahmad al-Asfahi, minister of information and culture; His Excellency Dr Muhammad al-Adhi [name as heard], minister of finance; His Excellency Fu'ad Qa'id, minister of development; and His Excellency Ahmad al-Muhanni, the Yemeni ambassador to the kingdom.

The council reviewed the Arab and international situations as well as other issues of mutual interest. Views on these issues were identical. It also reviewed the situation in the region and affirmed the united stand of the two countries against all the covert and overt plots that are being hatched to shake the security and stability of the region, whatever their source. It also decided to confront anyone who tries to harm the territorial integrity, security or independence of its states or tries to impose any kind of hegemony and influence on them. It expressed the desire to keep the region far removed from international conflicts and foreign influence.

The two sides affirmed the stand of their brothers, the sons of the occupied Arab territories, who by their uprising are facing the rifles of the enemy with their chests and faith. They strongly condemned the repressive measures which the Israeli occupation authorities are taking against the sons of the occupied Arab territories, measures that are inconsistent with international convention and agreements protecting civilians living under occupation. The two sides call on the international community to condemn and denounce the Israeli actions and to stand by the Arab compatriots living under the authority of the Israeli occupation.

The council reviewed the close bilateral relations and expressed total satisfaction with the two countries' mutual coordination and cooperation and with the progress of the projects which the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is implementing in the YAR as well as with the implementation of the agreements connected with loans and participants, including the following projects:

1. Projects in the education sector: The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the projects accomplished in this sector. The council has approved the continuation of the implementation of the projects agreed upon. These projects include 27 schools, of which 3 are large secondary schools. It also decided to continue to supply the YAR Ministry of Education with the agreed number of Saudi teachers -- 1,422 contracted teachers and 262 education guides -- within the limits of the sum agreed upon, as well as to absorb the largest possible number of Yemeni students in the kingdom's universities and institutes, in addition to continuing the 2,855 university scholarships in the other sisterly and friendly states. Moreover, the Education Ministries have been instructed to follow up the establishment of institutes in the YAR to train teachers to meet the country's needs. Agreement has also been reached on coordinating education programs and curricula so that the largest possible number of Yemeni students can be absorbed into Saudi universities and institutes.
2. Projects in the health sector: Agreement was reached on the importance of speeding up the equipping of Al-Bayda Hospital and the establishment of a 50-bed hospital in Hajja. It was also agreed that the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will follow up on the establishment of the five clinics agreed upon at the previous session and the establishment of a sixth clinic as part of Sa'dah Hospital. It was also agreed to adopt an integrated project for combatting malaria and bilharzia at a cost of 15 million Saudi riyals.
3. Projects within the framework of mosques and Justice Ministry establishments: This year the kingdom will establish 10 mosques in the Provinces of Al-Jawf and Ma'rab and two mosques in San'a'; the kingdom will also work on the improvement of health amenities in some mosques in San'a'. Studies relating to the project of the high judicial institute in San'a' and the shari' courts in Hajjah and Dumar will also be completed.
4. Well-sinking projects: The two sides agreed on the importance of completing the sinking of 50 artesian wells and equipping them with all the required storage tanks and necessary extensions.

5. Projects in the sector of the airport development: The two sides agreed that the kingdom should participate in the development of San'a' airport and its extensions at a cost of 100 million Saudi riyals.

6. The agricultural sector:

A. Rural development projects: The coordination council reviewed the studies relating to the integrated rural development project in Al-Jawf Valley in which the kingdom is to participate at a cost of 127 million Saudi riyals. It urged the Saudi development fund to participate with the experts of the two countries' Ministries of Agriculture in completing the study of the project.

B. It was also decided that the kingdom should continue to give 20,000 tons of fertilizers to the YAR.

C. The principle of cooperation in combatting locusts was adopted.

7. Projects in the field of communications: It was decided to complete the microwave network between the town of Ta'izz and Al-Hudaydah in order to provide modern telecommunications between the two regions. The kingdom will undertake to cover the extra costs above the estimates presented by the Yemeni side, which amounted to \$1 million. The agreement regarding the project was signed and it will be implemented shortly.

8. The Information sector: The two sides reviewed the existing cooperation between the information apparatus in the two fraternal countries and stressed the importance of continuing the coordination of information and of directing efforts for caring [word indistinct] to deepen spiritual education, adhere to Islamic and Pan-Arab values and standards and safeguard the Arab heritage. The council urged that construction of the SPA office in San'a' begin. It will cost 5 million Saudi riyals.

9. Projects in the municipalities sector: The council stressed the importance of speedy commencement of the ring road in San'a' after the completion of the special studies related to it.

10. Development projects: The council praised the projects that are financed or partly financed by the Saudi development fund in this field. An agreement on participation in financing the energy distribution lines project at the Al-Mukha central electricity power station at a cost of 124 million Saudi riyals was signed during this session.

11. Budget support: The two sides agreed that the support provided by the Saudi Arabian Kingdom to the YAR budget, amounting to 345 million Saudi riyals, which has been endorsed by previous sessions of the council, will continue.

The Saudi side, headed by His Royal Highness Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation, paid a visit to His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the YAR. He conveyed His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz' greetings and those of the heir apparent, as well as their affirmation of continued support and backing for the fraternal YAR. The Saudi side expressed its admiration for the progress of the fraternal Yemeni people and its deep gratitude to the YAR -- president, Government and people -- for the generosity and hospitality they received. The two sides agreed to hold the next session of the Coordination Council in the Saudi Arabian Kingdom in April 1983.

CABINET DISCUSSES ISRAELI PULLOUT, OTHER ISSUES

NC071754 Cairo MENA in English 1644 GMT 7 Apr 82

[Text] Cairo, 7 Apr (MENA) -- Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said during the Cabinet session today that stages of the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai are being carried out as agreed upon, adding that Israeli Defence Minister Ari'el Sharon was due here by the end of last month but his visit was postponed.

The date of Sharon's forthcoming visit would be fixed within the coming few days, Safwat ash-Sharif, minister of information, told pressmen following the Cabinet session.

Hasan 'Ali also expounded the outcome of State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali's tour of a number of African countries for coordination among the various African stances inside the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to overcome the existing rift.

He reported on Dr Ghali's meetings with the presidents of Guinea and Senegal which aimed at undertaking joint conciliatory efforts to help end the rift inside the OAU, which may impede the holding of the Tripoli conference.

Hasan 'Ali added that Dr Ghali has pointed out that the rift inside the organisation led to the postponement of the African information ministers conference scheduled to be held in Dakar.

The African labour ministers conference produced no result due to the African difference and its effect on the members of the conference, 'Ali further said.

Dr Ghali also underlined that the foreign minister of Congo is due here within the coming few days on a visit to Egypt, Ash-Sharif said quoting Hasan 'Ali.

Lt General Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, defence and military production minister, reported on the outcome of his visit to the United States and the developments of the Iraq-Iran war, Safwat ash-Sharif said.

He pointed out in this respect that Lt General Abu Ghazalah had expounded the details of the military situation in the light of recent Iranian attack, its impact on the Iraqi military power and expected probabilities of the developments of the military operations.

The council underlined Egypt's stance, which calls for ending this war and encouraging all international endeavours to solve this conflict and restore stability to the area, Ash-Sharif said.

Ash-Sharif added that the premier had asked 'Abd al-Fattah Ibrahim, deputy premier for economic and financial affairs, to make a survey of the projects agreed upon by the investment authority which have not yet been put into force to study the obstacles which impede their implementation.

He also called for making a survey of the projects which have not yet been approved to study their economic feasibilities.

'ALI, ISRAELI OFFICIALS DISCUSS PULLOUT, TIES

NC081815 Cairo MENA in English 1740 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] Cairo, 8 Apr (MENA) -- Kamal Hasan 'Ali, the deputy premier and foreign minister, today conferred with David Kimche, the visiting Israeli Foreign Ministry director general, and Moshe Sason, the Israeli ambassador to Egypt.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali attended the 90-minute meeting.

'Ali said later that the meeting covered future bilateral relations after the final Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai on April 25, especially as regards the process of normalization and joint cooperation.

The Israeli aide stressed during the meeting that the pullout measures were being taken according to schedule, 'Ali added.

He pointed out that the situation on the West Bank was also dealt with. The deputy premier and foreign minister underlined in this connection that Egypt was interested to see a stable West Bank and no mounting up in the situation there, so that it would not deteriorate in a way affecting the Palestinian autonomy negotiations in the future. 'Ali also stressed the need for continuing the autonomy negotiations and for speeding them up after April 25, so as to encourage other parties to join them.

He further underscored the importance of the cease-fire reached in south Lebanon.

Kimche, speaking to the press, said that the meeting included a general discussion of relations between the two countries, matters pertaining to the resumption of the autonomy negotiations and the acceleration of the peace process. The position required a resumption of dialogue between the two countries to realise further understanding, the Israeli Foreign Ministry director general said.

He disclosed that Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon would visit Egypt, though the timing of the visit has not been set yet.

'ALI: EGYPT SEEKS ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN RECOGNITION

NC081249 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1222 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] Cairo, 8 Apr (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stated that Egypt's stand at the meetings of the nonaligned states Coordinating Bureau in Kuwait is a continuation and affirmation of previous Egyptian stands. Egypt's view is that it is necessary to continue to implement the Camp David agreement and to support the peace march that has emanated from it through a mutual and simultaneous recognition between the Palestinian and Israeli sides. Egypt has called for this mutual recognition several times and on numerous occasions, especially following the cease-fire agreement in Lebanon. 'Ali said that Egypt's policy is still the same and is based on serious work to achieve a comprehensive peaceful solution and to bring about a settlement in which all the parties to the dispute will participate so that the circle of peace will encompass all the peoples of the region.

'ALI AFFIRMS STANCE ON PALESTINIANS UNCHANGED

NC081638 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] Cairo, 8 Apr (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali today said that the contents of the speech Egypt's permanent delegate to the United Nations, 'Isamat 'Abd al-Majid, delivered before the members of the Nonaligned States Coordination Bureau, now in session in Kuwait, on the Palestinian question does not represent a new Egyptian stand. 'Ali stated that it is the same stand which Egypt has frequently declared in the past.

'Ali said that Egypt's policy is one of commitment to the two Camp David accords, to what has been accomplished by the peace process and the negotiations on full autonomy for the Palestinians, which Egypt considers as a practical and important step toward the comprehensive solution and the establishment of peace and stability in the area.

He added: We also support the continuation of the cease-fire in Lebanon. We are confident that the autonomy process will encourage other parties to participate in the negotiations in the future. We believe that the line of peace is the only line that can achieve the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

MULTINATIONAL FORCE COMMANDER ARRIVES IN CAIRO

NC081311 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] Cairo, 8 Apr (MENA) -- Commander of the multinational force Lt Gen Fredrik V. Bull-Hansen arrived in Cairo from Tel Aviv at noon today. He was welcomed at the airport by Rear Admiral Muhsin Hamdi, the leader of the Egyptian side to the Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee.

FLAG RAISING TO MARK SINAI TURNOVER 25 APR

NC081754 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1652 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] Cairo, 8 Apr (MENA) -- It has been learned that the celebration marking Egypt's takeover of the remaining part of Sinai on 25 April will take place in two places -- Rafah in the north and Sharm ash-Shaykh in the south -- by raising the Egyptian flag in both places at the same time.

Official measures pertaining to the handover and takeover of the remaining part of Sinai will be completed during the celebration.

It is known that President Husni Mubarak will deliver an important speech at a joint meeting of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council on 27 April to mark this occasion.

A committee headed by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and including members of the joint [Egyptian-Israeli] Military Committee is currently preparing the program for the celebrations.

AL-JUMHURIYAH SUPPORTS ISRAEL'S EYTAN ON NEW ERA

NC090912 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 9 Apr 82

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-JUMHURIYAH carries an editorial on Egyptian-Israeli relations. The paper says: The Israeli chief of staff, Refa'el Eytan, was right when he said Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai on 25 April can be the beginning of a new era in relations existing in the area. It is certain that the Israeli withdrawal, following 15 years of occupation, will entrench a new principle for relations existing among the Middle Eastern states -- that is, the principle of bilateral negotiations leading toward a solution of the problems pending between these states. The peoples of the area tried war to resolve their conflicts in 1948, 1956, 1967 and 1973. Every time, this proved to be a blind alley, leading to nothing; its sole result was the ruination and destruction of all parties.

The paper points out that through four wars Israel has been unable to induce the Palestinian people to forget their cause and legitimate rights. Furthermore, during these wars the Arab states have been unable to strike Israel off the Middle East map. Every war sowed the seeds of a subsequent war in the area's soil, until these wars became a devilish circle, impossible to break out of.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says in conclusion: For the first time, Israel is able to achieve real peace with an Arab state and eliminate its differences, which have lasted for well over 30 years. What is important is for the Egyptian-Israeli peace to mark a starting point toward an overall and just peace in the area, and that Israel should become convinced of the Palestinian people's rights in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, just as it was convinced of [the need to] withdraw from the Sinai.

DELEGATION TO ATTEND ECONOMIC MEETING IN TRIPOLI

NC081202 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] Cairo, 8 Apr (MENA) -- Egypt has decided to attend the eighth session of the African economy ministers' conference to be held in Libya.

The weekly magazine AL-MUSAWWAR reports in its edition to be published tomorrow, Friday, that Egypt will send a delegation to Tripoli to take part in the meetings of the technical committee that will prepare for the conference this month.

The magazine adds that Egypt adopted this decision after it received assurances from Libya guaranteeing the security of its delegation in Tripoli and enabling it to take part in the session.

EGYPTIAN PAPER CALLS FOR END TO IRAQ-IRAN WAR

PM071235 Cairo MAY in Arabic 5 Apr 82 p 7

[Editorial: "Egypt Demands An End to the War"]

[Excerpts] Since the outbreak of the Iraq-Iran war Egypt has opposed the principle of two Islamic states engaging in hostilities. It has firmly denounced and condemned this war because it fully realizes and is certain that, on the one hand, the spilling of the blood of two Islamic peoples is something Islamic religion does not approve of, and its political, economic and psychological effects could bring calamities and ruination for both Iraq and Iran and, on the other hand, the negative effects could be detrimental to the Gulf and the entire Middle East.

When Egypt declared its stand on this war 18 months ago, and to this date, it had and has no normal diplomatic relations with either country. Relations with Iran are severed, and those with Iraq are frozen or almost severed for reasons that need not be mentioned here. Nevertheless, this did not prevent Egypt, out of its belief in its undeniable Arab and Islamic role, from warning all the parties concerned of the dire consequences of so wasteful a war. It urged both countries to resolve their disputes peacefully and to stop the bloodshed.

Despite Egypt's desire from the beginning not to support one party against the other, it has found itself, under certain circumstances, compelled to extend a helping hand to Iraq by supplying it limited quantities of arms and ammunition -- shipments that were made public at the time -- so that other parties outside or inside the area could not exploit Iraq's arms situation in order to create certain conditions, or to achieve victories or to strengthen foreign influence that might threaten the Gulf region, undermine its regimes and open the door to the expansion rather than the halting of the war.

There is no doubt that when Egypt was biased in favor of Iraq as an Arab and Islamic state it did not adopt a hostile attitude toward the Muslim Iranian people, did not support Iraq's capture of Iranian territory and did not fail to denounce the spilling of the blood of two Islamic peoples. Rather it has sought to avert the terrible consequences that could result from other Arab countries becoming involved in this war.

Recent days have witnessed Arab and Islamic contacts to stop the bloody conflict between Iraq and Iran. Some people may think that support for Iraq encourages it to continue to war, while others might support Iran in the hope of bringing down the Iraqi regime. But such alliances and hostilities remain a shortsighted policy, it is wrong, if some think that victory by one party or the defeat of the other is a victory for them and a consolidation of its position because the irrefutable fact is that the whole area will pay the price for the war's continuation. Its effects will not be confined to Iran and Iraq alone. Therefore Egypt supports every attempt to encourage the two sides to end the fighting and to enter into negotiations in order to solve the dispute for the sake of Islam and Arabism and for the sake of the stability of the area and the sovereignty of its states.

MUBARAK PROMOTES ABU GHAZALAH TO FULL GENERAL

NC090916 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 9 Apr 82

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has issued a decree promoting Defense and War Production Minister Lt Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah to the rank of general as from 1 April 1982.

AL-AHRAM NOTES PRIME MINISTER'S ECONOMIC REMARKS

NC080911 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 8 Apr 82

[From the press review]

[Text] Today's Cairo papers give prominence to the announcement by [Prime Minister] Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din at yesterday's Cabinet meeting to the effect that the organization of the Egyptian economy and the rectification of its course should not arouse concern by Egyptians abroad and at home, and there is no reason for campaigns to cast doubt on the stability of Egypt's economic policy.

AL-AHRAM notes the prime minister's announcement at the 4-hour Cabinet session that Egypt continues to pursue an open-door policy, that production openness does not mean depriving the private sector of the right to import or to work in full freedom, and that there are no limits set for those who work and profit, as long as these people give the state its due.

Furthermore, the paper sheds light on the prime minister's affirmation that the rectification of [the economic] course does not jeopardize the established principles and policies or the rights of the middle class and above to receive subsidies for basic commodities.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND ISSUES COMMUNIQUE

Communique No 671

JN081611 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1555 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Apr (INA) -- Iraqi forces inflicted losses on the Iranian enemy during the past 24 hours amounting to seven killed and one personnel carrier, two vehicles, one gun and two stockpiles of hardware destroyed. This came in communique No 671 issued by the Armed Forces General Command this evening. The communique put our sacrifices at two martyrs in all sectors. Following is the text of the communique:

Communique no 671 issued by the Armed Forces General Command: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our valiant armed forces continued their activities in the operations theater, with the following results:

1. Four were killed and one vehicle, one gun and one stockpile of hardware destroyed in the Abadan area.
2. Two were killed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] area.
3. One was killed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area.
4. One armored personnel carrier, one vehicle and one stockpile of hardware were destroyed in the Bostan area.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to seven killed and one armored personnel carrier, two vehicles, one gun and two stockpiles of hardware destroyed.

5. Our sacrifices: Two martyrs in all sectors.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 8 April 1982

IRAQ TO INCREASE POPULAR ARMY TO 500,000

JN081743 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1655 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Apr (INA) -- Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and commander in chief of the popular army, has declared that the army training program will aim at bringing the number of fighters to 500,000 by the end of this year.

In a statement published here today, Ramadan said: This number was our target in the 5-year plan which ends in 1985, but the program we are implementing this year will achieve this figure.

Ramadan said that new elements in the popular army trained during the war far exceed the number of those trained before the war. He also said that training, preparation and armament programs in the training camps have improved manifold during the past few months due to the exigencies and requirements of the battle.

Ramadan said that opening the door to Arab volunteers was for the purpose of applying the popular army experiment on a broader basis. The existence of Arab volunteers alongside their Iraqi brothers in one trench, he added, should broaden the experiment in the future.

Ramadan said that Iraq does not view Arab volunteers only as additional fighters for Iraq, but as an embodiment of the pan-Arab concept of participation through volunteering.

JORDAN TIMES VIEWS FUTURE PALESTINIAN STATE

JN081030 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Apr 82 p 4

[Editorial: "Naive, For Now"]

[Text] The Egyptian proposal to the non-aligned countries' meeting in Kuwait this week for simultaneous and mutual Israeli-Palestinian recognition is not acceptable in its present form, but is worth chewing over as a conceptual framework for future peace-making efforts. The idea that the non-aligned states could mediate a peace agreement between the Arabs and Israelis is naive, given the overwhelming freedom of military action that Israel has in the Middle East as a result of its unconditional and total American support. Israel is not in a frame of mind to make peace, and the Americans are not in a frame of mind to induce more flexibility or rationality on Israel's part. In such circumstances, talk of negotiated peace is wishful thinking.

But in the longer term, Palestinian aspirations for nationhood can only be accommodated by the creation of a sovereign Palestinian state. This state is most likely to come into being on the West Bank and Gaza Strip territories now occupied by the American-backed Israelis. At some point in the future, one anticipates a negotiating process leading to an Israeli withdrawal from these territories, linked to a process of Palestinian national self-determination ending in statehood. The Palestinian leadership has indicated, in cryptic terms, that it will accept such a package, but there has been no such parallel indication from the Israeli side. The United States seems happy to maintain the status quo and therefore must be judged uninterested at present in moving towards a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue based on universally accepted principles, as opposed to the intellectual sandbox of Camp David.

AMMAN DAILY ON USSR ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST

JN090831 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 9 Apr 82

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline, "A Reminder of the Importance of the USSR Role," AR-RA'Y says: In his Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan's statement to APN, there is a clear indication of the importance of developing USSR-Arab relations on the political level since this is an important factor which would help establish peace in the Middle East. This statement reminds us of the importance of the Soviet Union's role in the search for the desired peace, as was very clearly expressed through His Highness Crown Prince Hasan's renewed support for President Brezhnev's proposal to hold an international conference to discuss Middle East problems and the Arab-Israeli dispute as well as the USSR president's call to maintain the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace.

On the other hand, his royal highness criticizes U.S. hesitation to denounce Israeli aggression, which encourages Israel to undertake more hostile acts in the region, including its attempts to impose the so-called civil administration on the West Bank by force. These attempts are like the racist laws imposed on African inhabitants by the Government of South Africa.

It goes without saying that the U.S. role, which gives Israel a free hand, has alienated the region from peace. There is no Arab who accepts this role or its sway over the Arab cause after its bias and failure have been confirmed.

It is time for the USSR role to assert itself, especially since the proposals on which it is based, as announced by President Brezhnev, are supported by the Arabs and give the international community the chance to shoulder its responsibility toward the establishment of a real peace in the region.

In his statement, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan was careful to assert that Jerusalem is the crux of the matter and the key to peace and stability and that it should not be ignored when any solution is submitted for discussion. This assertion lays down the essential bases for the success of any international effort to establish peace and stability in the region. This is also a reminder to Washington, Moscow and all others of the irreplaceable starting point to achieve that objective which should receive due international attention.

AR-RA'Y ON EYTAN'S THREATS AGAINST LEBANON

JN080857 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 8 Apr 82

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Those Who Play With Fire," AR-RA'Y says: The Israeli chief of staff embarked on blaring new threats by saying that he has weapons and surprises which he has not used before. It seems that these threats are meant to intimidate the Arabs against undertaking any move when the Israeli aggression is waged on southern Lebanon. Eytan's talk of such weapons and surprises should be viewed as an indication that the countdown for Israel's aggression has begun. This fact should not be blurred by Israel's current celebration of the Jewish Easter. The Arabs should take the matter seriously and those Arabs who have special relations with the United States should remind the United States that the weapons with which Eytan is making threats are U.S. weapons and that Israel's commitment of an aggression under the U.S.-Israeli strategic coordination agreement will not absolve the United States from direct responsibility as a partner to the adventure or at least as a side supporting it, especially since the Israeli ambassador in Washington has asserted upon his return to Tel Aviv that this agreement is still valid.

The Arab stand toward continued Israeli escalation of tension and Eytan's threats should not ignore the responsibility of the United States in this regard. All the Arabs must directly warn Washington of the consequences of the expected Israeli adventure and its effects on Arab-U.S. relations.

AR-RA'Y concludes: The political and military belligerence being practiced by Israel in the region with U.S. weapons and the U.S. veto makes unpleasant reading in the record of U.S. practices. It is time for the Arabs to tell Washington that those who play with fire will not be far from the flames no matter how powerful and strong they are.

AL-QASIM RETURNS FROM NONALIGNED MEETING

JN081657 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim tonight returned to Amman after heading the Jordanian delegation to the extraordinary meeting of the Nonaligned Coordination Bureau which was convened on 5 April and continued for 4 days. Al-Qasim told the JNA reporter that the meetings were devoted to assessing the situation in the region. He said the meetings assessed practical methods to be adopted by the nonaligned countries to increase aid to the Palestinian people so as to help them in their struggle to achieve their firm rights and exercise them in complete freedom.

PALESTINIANS AMBUSH, INJURE LEBANESE OFFICER

NC082112 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Apr 82

[8 April statement issued by an unidentified Lebanese military official]

[Text] Ever since the process of rebuilding the army began, incidents have successively occurred to hinder it, particularly in the south where such incidents have continued, beginning with the attack on the Sidon barracks on 1 March 1980, the interception of a military convoy in Ar-Rumaylah on 3 June 1980 and of another military convoy in Ar-Rumaylah on 11 July 1981.

Recently -- specifically during October 1981 -- definitive information became available indicating the existence of a plan prepared by one of the Palestinian resistance organizations to assassinate Col Qasim Siblini for no reason except that he was one of the first to restore unity among soldiers of the Sidon area and to restore life in the Sidon area barracks when he assumed command of the barracks in the first stage of the rebuilding process and continued to play a vital and basic role as an area information officer.

After escaping three assassination attempts, Colonel Siblini continued the march with his officers and soldiers, motivated by a solid will and unshakable faith in the sacredness of the cause he was working for -- the unity of the army and the homeland -- and in which he was translating the will of the sons of the south.

At about 1400 today in the As-Sa'diyat area, while Colonel Siblini was returning to Sidon, he fell in an armed ambush by about 35 members of the Palestinian resistance. They opened up with a hail of bullets from automatic weapons and with handgrenades. Colonel Siblini was seriously wounded and moved by military helicopter to a hospital for treatment while his companions clashed with the attackers. One of his companions, WO JG Qasima Oumh, was wounded and Cpl Tanyus Shahin escaped unharmd. The fate of three soldiers, Privates Jawad Jawad, Muhammad Hamzah and Yusuf Barakat is still unknown.

The information about the identity of the perpetrators and the planners will be sent to the responsible judicial quarters.

VCP: MORE ISRAELI FORTIFICATION CONSTRUCTION

JNO71644 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1615 GMT 7 Apr 82

[Text] Reports from southern Lebanon today said that Zionist bulldozers are building new positions and fortifications in the Mazra'at Ar-Rujayliyah area. Other bulldozers were also seen active opposite Ad-Dimashqiyah.

In the meantime, a group of militiamen belonging to traitor Sa'd Haddad at dawn today infiltrated into the town of Bra'shit in the UNIFIL zone and killed a Lebanese citizen.

BUTRUS, KHADDAM RESCHEDULE SHTAWRAH MEETING

NC081745 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] President Sarkis held a meeting today with Minister Butrus during which the situation at all levels was evaluated. Following the meeting, the foreign minister said that he and Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam had spoken by phone and agreed that they would meet in Shtawrah on Tuesday.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON BORDER CLOSURE WITH IRAQ

JN082001 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1852 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] The minister of the interior today issued the following statement:

The regime of killers in Baghdad has chosen to continue implementing its role of agency and plotting in order to be a principal tool in the plot to liquidate the Palestinian cause, fight the Arab liberation forces and spread imperialist-Zionist hegemony over the Arab region. Within this mean role, the Baghdad regime has been continuing its conspiratorial attempts against Syria and its steadfastness, because the work against Syria is a direct service rendered to Israel and U.S. imperialism, and because Syria is facing the threat of Israeli aggression alone and is bearing its full responsibility with great self-confidence and with trust in the future and in the fate of this nation and its sacrifices to realize victory and overcome aggression.

The black Baghdad regime has worked over the years to destroy relations between fraternal Syria and Iraq and has made it difficult for Syrian citizens to enter Iraq through insistence that they must have passports instead of the previously valid identity card, which we still accept from Iraqi citizens when they enter Syria. This regime has transformed our beloved Iraq into a den for treason and conspiracy, a base for training the criminal members of the Muslim Brotherhood criminal gangs and a center from which they come to Syrian cities with great amounts of ammunition, explosives and weapons in order to kill our people and to weaken our defense capabilities in facing the Zionist enemy. At Al-Azbakiyah quarter in Damascus, they killed and injured hundreds of men, women and children. They sent car bombs to heavily populated areas in our towns so that the crime could be repeated and the killing and destruction multiplied. This they did in Hamah and have attempted to do recently in the rest of Syria's cities. The latest of their attempts was to send arms, explosives and ammunition to Dayr az-Zawr, thinking thereby that they would be able to continue their crimes.

The agent regime in Baghdad has exploited the want and poverty of a number of unemployed Iraqi citizens. The regime trained and directed them toward acts of sabotage inside Syria. The Baghdad regime was not satisfied with its crimes against Iraqi citizens. It was not satisfied with the massacres in Baghdad, An-Najaf, Karbala', Mosul, Basra, Al-'Amarah, Samarra' and in all the other Iraqi cities and villages. Its crimes have extended to Syria so that killing, sabotage and insecurity might spread.

Syria did not react to these acts and made no decision against the Iraqi regime's crimes and agency. Syria was patient because of its love for our heroic Iraqi people so that their daily interests might not be affected by any measure on the part of the Syrian Government. However, all we obtained as a result of our patience was more plots from the Baghdad hangman and his agent regime.

In view of all this, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic finds itself forced to close the borders with Iraq as a measure within the framework of protecting the security of Syrian citizens and the stability of their life. We are confident that this decision will be temporary because our heroic Iraqi people will destroy the Baghdad hangman and his agent regime which has isolated Iraq from the causes of the Arab nation and its main battles, and has imposed oppression and sadness on Iraq. We are confident that Iraq's darkness will not be long. We will be back together in Damascus and Baghdad in order to build the future of this nation and defend it hand in hand and shoulder to shoulder so that it might again be unified in its will and decisions.

INTERIOR MINISTER IMPLEMENTS BORDER CLOSURE

JN081644 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1612 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] Damascus, 8 Apr (SANA) -- In implementation of the order to close the borders with Iraq, the interior minister has issued the following order to the emigration centers, passport centers and border posts:

A. The Syrian border with Iraq will be closed to personnel, cars and trains effective the day this order is issued.

B. Contrary to the provision of the above clause, Syrian citizens currently in Iraq with their cars are allowed to return to Syria within 48 hours beginning 2200 today, Thursday, 8 April 1982, and ending at 2200 on Saturday, 10 April 1982.

C. Iraqi citizens currently in Syria with their cars are allowed to travel to Iraq within 48 hours, beginning at 2200 today, Thursday, 8 April 1982 and ending at 2200 on Saturday, 10 April 1982.

D. Transit vehicles and trains are allowed to enter Iraq and return from it through the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic within the period of 1 week starting at 2200 today, Thursday, 8 April 1982 and ending at 2200 on Thursday, 15 April 1982.

E. This order shall be communicated to all those responsible for its implementation.

SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN DELEGATION RESUME MEETINGS

JN081428 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] Ba'th Party and Fatah delegations resumed their talks today in the Foreign Ministry to discuss a united action strategy.

The Ba'th Party delegation was headed by Comrade 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Fatah delegation by Brother Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member.

The meeting was attended on the Syrian side by Comrade Tawfiq Salihah, Regional Command member and coordination office director; Dr Wahib Tannus, Regional Command member and head of the Higher Education and Scientific Research Office; and Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs. Attending on the Palestinian side were brothers Abu Iyad, Abu Salih and Qadri.

Several subcommittees were formed during the meeting to implement executive programs within the approved general principles. The meeting will resume next week.

BA'TH LEADER MEETS EGYPTIAN CP OFFICIAL

JN081833 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] Comrade Muhammad Haydar, Ba'th Party National Command member and head of the party's Foreign Relations Bureau, today received Yusuf Darwish, head of the Nile Valley Bureau and representative of the Egyptian Communist Party to the celebrations on the 35th anniversary of the party's establishment. The meeting was attended by Comrade Najji Jamil, party National Command member.

Comrade Darwish conveyed the congratulations of the Egyptian Communist Party on this occasion. He also stressed the great role played by the Ba'th Party within the Arab liberation movement in the Arab steadfastness and resistance against U.S. imperialist and Zionist plans. During the meeting, discussion dealt with the condition of the Egyptian opposition inside and outside the country and its determination to foil the Camp David accords and return true Egypt to the Arab fold.

SHARON INTERVIEW ON OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, SINAI

DW070827 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 5 Apr 82 pp 138-152

[DER SPIEGEL editors Henri Zoller, Johannes K. Engel and Heinz P. Lohfeldt interview with Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon at his estate near Tel Aviv; date not given]

[Text] SPIEGEL: Mr Minister, there is revolt in the occupied Arab territories and dead Arabs in the streets. You have ordered your army to take drastic action. Are we experiencing the end of the officially announced policy of peaceful coexistence in Israeli-occupied territories?

Sharon: Not at all. On the contrary, we are trying to create a situation that will allow us to live together peacefully. I was in Samaria and Jericho yesterday, and everything was completely calm there -- life was nearly normal.

SPIEGEL: Yesterday? But yesterday was the "Day of the Land," and the Arabs were on strike.

Sharon: No, everything was almost completely normal. I was in Nabulus and all the stores were open. I also went to the casbah when I heard it was reportedly on fire -- and most stores were open...

SPIEGEL: Opened forcibly by your troops?

Sharon: No, no. Maybe a few soldiers did try to open some stores, but on the whole it is inconceivable for hundreds of shops to be opened by soldiers.

SPIEGEL: Did the Arabs recognize you?

Sharon: Of course.

SPIEGEL: Were stones thrown at you?

Sharon: Not at all. I received the most cordial reception there. I talked with the people and went into the shops and people came out with me to be photographed with me.

SPIEGEL: Do you speak Arabic?

Sharon: Yes.

SPIEGEL: What did the Arabs tell you?

Sharon: Look, one thing must be clear to you. We have never, not even for a moment, tried to base our relations in Samaria, Judaea and in the Gaza Strip on Arabs who might be called collaborators...

SPIEGEL: Quislings...

Sharon: I don't like to use that expression. No, we don't believe in such methods. What we are trying to do -- and we will succeed in accomplishing this -- is to liberate this territory from the fear of murder and violence.

SPIEGEL: You want to accomplish this by simply dismissing Arab mayors and then dispatching your army to break any resistance?

Sharon: What kind of mayors are they? These mayors are the representatives of terrorist organizations.

SPIEGEL: But they were elected, after all.

Sharon: There were no democratic elections...

SPIEGEL. However, you did recognize the mayors and left them in office for many years.

Sharon: During all these years their positions as representatives of the PLO became increasingly stronger, and to the greatest extent possible we wanted to avoid friction between us and the population.

SPIEGEL: Why, then, did you decide to take such harsh action now?

Sharon: Because we are now implementing the second part of the Camp David agreements, which involves negotiations on autonomy.

SPIEGEL: Thus the dismissal of the mayors was the first step in that direction?

Sharon: Yes, but I would not use the term "mayor." I would use the expression "main centers of influence of the PLO terrorists." After all, you cannot dream about peace and peaceful coexistence between us and the Palestinian Arabs as long as PLO terrorism has the area under control. In that case, we would never have this. Therefore, after observing the situation for years...

SPIEGEL: You found that it was time for a test of strength?

Sharon: All this started when I assumed my new post as minister of defense. I gave the government my assessment of the situation, drew a picture of what this situation was like and made recommendations on what would have to be done if all of us wished to have peaceful coexistence some day -- and I believe that we must indeed reach a state of peaceful coexistence.

SPIEGEL: You recommended a specific program?

Sharon: Yes, certain steps. I did not shoot from the hip; I came with a plan. To begin with, it was important to make life easier for the majority of people who do not participate in any terrorist activities or riots. Second, we had to take strict measures against those who behind the riots so as to reduce their influence. This, then, was the beginning.

SPIEGEL: Did you expect violence?

Sharon: Yes, of course. I proposed, therefore, that the role of the Military Governments be shared in this area because the Camp David agreement provides, after all, for us to stay there while the military governor is to be withdrawn. Consequently I decided to install this civil administration in which the military governor vests full authority.

SPIEGEL: Isn't this where things went wrong because the Palestinians considered this to be the first step in direction of annexing the territory?

Sharon: No, this is the first step toward autonomy.

SPIEGEL: Autonomy of Israeli make?

Sharon: What do you mean by Israeli make? What are you thinking anyway? Do you think for a moment, one single moment, that people living in Europe dictate to us whether we exist here or do not exist here? My dear people, you are dreaming, indeed you are.

SPIEGEL: Isn't there a considerable difference of opinion among Egyptians, Israelis and Americans regarding interpretation of the Camp David agreement on autonomy?

Sharon: Before real negotiations have begun it is difficult to tell whether the differences of opinion are really great or insignificant. As far as we know, President as-Sadat believed it would be better for Egypt and Israel if autonomy negotiations could end prior to 26 April. I think he was right. President Mubarak, whom we know and esteem, has another opinion. Since we believe in peace with Egypt and in our future relations with Egypt and since we believe we will be in a position later to negotiate on all this, we did not feel it necessary to attempt to press the Egyptians to conclude autonomy negotiations prior to 26 April.

However, I want to tell you -- and this is basic -- that if only a few of the differences of opinion threaten our existence here, we will never accept it. We are determined to live here as normally and peacefully as you and probably also the other European countries would. I also believe the Arabs would like to live in peace. If you are asking me whether we would make any concessions when our security and existence are involved, the answer is no.

SPIEGEL: In other words, no Palestinian state in the occupied areas?

Sharon: We never had a Palestinian state in mind. There already is a Palestinian state in Jordan. The beginnings of a Palestinian state date back to 1921 when 3/4 of the Palestinian area, in those days the Land of Israel, was carved out of Israeli territory. Israel's territory was given to the Hashemite royal family to solve the problem of the Hashemite kingdom.

SPIEGEL: You aren't suggesting that the Hashemite royal family be overthrown in Jordan and replaced by King 'Arafat?

Sharon: You know, I stated my opinion in this respect many years ago...

SPIEGEL: You don't hold this opinion any longer?

Sharon: I am no longer a private person. I am a member of the government and, therefore, I do not want to interfere in the problem of the future of this country, although I must repeat myself and say that the only foreigners in Jordan are the members of the Hashemite royal family. We have made it very clear that we are against a second Palestinian state.

SPIEGEL: But you can't resettle every Arab from the occupied areas into Jordan?

Sharon: We don't intend to do that at all. After all, the bridges across the Jordan are open. I was there yesterday and life is normal. It is easier to go from Amman to Jerusalem than...

SPIEGEL: ...From West Germany to East Germany?

Sharon: I am certain of it. I have seen the wall. There is no comparison -- at the Jordan River things are very simple, very simple.

SPIEGEL: Isn't this mainly so because the Hashemite king is ruling there? If the ruler were Yasir 'Arafat, the situation would probably be completely different.

Sharon: I make no recommendation as to who should rule there, although it is clear to me where the great sympathy for the king comes from. King Husayn, I mean his grandfather, brutally attacked us in 1948, and there were thousands of dead and wounded. King Husayn himself occupied the West Jordan bank until 1967. We were not the ones who occupied areas.

SPIEGEL: But aren't they occupied?

Sharon: Who has occupied the area? People forget what actually happened prior to 15 May 1948. The Land of Israel, it was Palestine before, stretched from Jordan in the east to the Mediterranean in the west. On 15 May Egypt attacked the country and occupied Rafah, Gaza, Ashqelon and Ashdod. Egyptian troops stood 30 km from Tel Aviv. In the east they occupied Beersheba, Hebron, Bethlehem and the southern outskirts of Jerusalem.

SPIEGEL: That's a long time ago. Today everybody -- the United States, the Soviet Union, the Arabs and the Europeans -- speaks of Israeli-occupied territories.

Sharon: Just a moment. Then the Iraqis came. They occupied the whole Ramallah area just a few kilometers north of Jerusalem, and they occupied the entire Samaria area. Then King Husayn's grandfather sent in his troops under the command of British officers and they occupied in a most brutal way the old city and northern Jerusalem. When we talk about occupied areas, we must first ask ourselves who has really done the occupying.

SPIEGEL: Let us leave historical reviews aside. What are the prospects? What does the future of these areas look like?

Sharon: We are approaching the point where we must negotiate the autonomy plan and implement it. We are offering a plan, an Israeli plan, which has never before been offered to the people of this area -- not during 400 years of Turkish occupation, not during 30 years of British occupation and not during 19 years of Jordanian and Egyptian occupation. As no other government in the past, my government has offered for the first time a plan, a peace plan, and in our negotiations with Egypt we have already demonstrated that we are serious. We hope that Egypt is equally serious about this peace as we are. You know that generals are always suspected of being hawks who like to go to war...

SPIEGEL: You are the hawk of the hawks.

Sharon: I am not the hawk of the hawks, not at all.

SPIEGEL: But you are said to be.

Sharon: People say so many things. I will give you an example. Before President as-Sadat came to Jerusalem, I suggested that the government make a gesture and give back to Egypt a small strip of land -- and not that small, either -- including the town of al-'Arish. The hawk of hawks suggested this plan to the government. The government did not accept it; only the prime minister liked it. So much for the hawk of hawks.

SPIEGEL: There were reports that your actions were taken in anticipation of a revolt in the occupied territories -- a revolt that was to erupt after the Israeli pullout from the Sinai. Is this true?

Sharon: Yes, that's true.

SPIEGEL: Do you have proof?

Sharon: Yes.

SPIEGEL: Did you get the information from Arabs?

Sharon: We were aware of it, period. It is important to once again stress that we are not looking for collaborators, not at all. Some Arabs in Judaea and Samaria desire a Palestinian state, others want to belong to Jordan, and still others perhaps have entirely different wishes. We are looking for people who believe in peaceful coexistence and who are also prepared to express their views openly, without being afraid of the concept of the PLO being the sole representative of the Palestinian Arabs. And it isn't, really.

SPIEGEL: How strong do you think PLO influence is in western Jordan territory?

Sharon: It was very strong, using methods of murder and intimidation. But I believe we now have people prepared to stand up and say that the PLO is not their representative. The next step was to eliminate the power centers of the terrorists, and I do not mean physical elimination.

SPIEGEL: These mayors....

Sharon: I would like to emphasize one more thing. You did not say a single word about the resolution of the Jordanians that any member of a village council will be subject to capital punishment, and all his assets subject to confiscation unless he leaves this [village league] organization by 9 April. Have you ever heard anything like that? For a government to not only threaten capital punishment but also to give orders without any court proceedings? And for what? For joining an organization made up of volunteers. Have you ever heard anything like that? If I were you, I would not waste my time here with me but would proceed to Jordan immediately to see the prime minister....

SPIEGEL: A good idea; we'll do that.

Sharon: And put him through the wringer. Ask him: What do you have in mind with the death penalty? How do you dare do this, anyway; how can a country like yours be a member of the United Nations! The death penalty for people who voluntarily join an organization and who refuse to agree that the PLO alone should be their sole representative. (The telephone rings, Sharon answers it.)

Sharon: That was my mother. She is 82 years old. She has a farm herself and is still working. She still sleeps with a rifle under her bed.

SPIEGEL: Probably the old pioneer spirit. Does she also know how to use it?

Sharon: You can trust her fully in that respect.

SPIEGEL: Mr Minister, a few weeks from now, on 25 April, Israel will return the Sinai to Egypt -- the battlefield to which not only the destiny of Israel but also your own personal fate is profoundly linked. You conquered it three times in command of Israeli troops, and now it is your task as the defense minister to order its evacuation -- which you have always opposed -- and to withdraw your troops to the 1967 border, which you have said cannot be defended. Is Israel only conditionally capable of defending itself?

Sharon: It is not true I have always been against a withdrawal to the 1967 borders in the Sinai. Rather, in 1973, when we still were on the West Bank of the Suez Canal, I said it would be a serious mistake to withdraw without a peace treaty with Egypt. I am sure we could have obtained far better conditions then. After all, my troops and I were 95 km from Cairo. So I had no objection to a peace treaty or an agreement with Egypt, but I was against a withdrawal without peace.

SPIEGEL: Well, you are withdrawing now and have a peace treaty.

Sharon: There is no doubt in my mind that we have assumed an immense risk. You must know that the military strength of the Arabs is entirely different now from what it was in the past.

SPIEGEL: The Arabs have more tanks than NATO has in Europe....

Sharon: They are now approaching a total of 15,000 tanks, mainly modern armor. Of the 3,700 Syrian tanks alone, 1,000 are T-72's, which is really one of the best in the world.

SPIEGEL: In the past it was said that Israel could live with a 1:3 ratio in armed forces and equipment....

Sharon: We already have a ratio of 1:4, and soon it will be 1:5 when it comes to tanks and jet combat aircraft. If we speak of artillery, the ratio is already about 1:10.

SPIEGEL: Time is working against you.

Sharon: No, time is not really working against us, but it goes without saying that we have to cope with grave risks. Nevertheless, after 30 years of war we simply must make the attempt, and we do so with all our heart and despite all difficulties. We just hope that the Egyptians view peace with us exactly as we do.

Keep in mind that under the peace treaty with Egypt, a 150-km-wide demilitarized zone will be established in the Sinai not just for a short period of time but for eternity, if I may use that expression. I am aware that it was very hard for the Egyptians to agree to this arrangement, very hard indeed. They also agreed to limit the number of troops in the Sinai, and that was just as hard for them. Still, it is necessary to make it clear that our situation is always worse than that of the Egyptians. We discussed that with them. Just as we are doing now, we sat in this room with them, and we also talked many times with them in Cairo.

SPIEGEL: The Egyptians visited you here?

Sharon: Yes, many times, many times. I told them: You simply must realize that we are in a weaker position because if you violate the agreement all it amounts to for you is a logistical operation -- all you need do is decide to send your troops across the canal. If we exercise our rights this means going to war. This is a difficult decision to make.

SPIEGEL: Did they realize that?

Sharon: They understood. I spoke exactly as I am speaking now. I discussed everything very frankly with them. Israel is a strong state militarily and it is not a matter of giving up our strength. We will closely observe every further step.

SPIEGEL: If the Egyptians were to move into the Sinai, would that mean war?

Sharon: If they changed the status of the Sinai, it would mean that Israeli troops would immediately move into the Sinai. Israel is not a position to accept something like that.

SPIEGEL: But how did you...

Sharon: That was exactly the situation in 1967. Exactly. However, today it is considerably more dangerous. You must know that Israel has ended the arms race. We are no longer taking part in any arms race. In this part of the world there really is a terrible arms race under way, with Europe and the United States supplying arms to one side and the Soviets supplying them to the other.

SPIEGEL: What is your opinion regarding the American plans to supply F-16 fighter aircraft and modern "Hawk" missiles to your neighbors and regarding Russian supplies of modern MiG fighters and tanks to Syria?

Sharon: I think this is a mistake. The fact that the Americans are prepared to supply Jordan...

SPIEGEL: ... with F-16's and Hawks...

Sharon: Yes. I would like to show you something. You must know that they will deploy SAM's not in the Jordan Valley but on the slopes in the hills...

SPIEGEL: ...Then, they could shoot down your aircraft when they are just taking off.

Sharon: We will no longer be able to fly over Jerusalem. The missiles cover our capital; and more important, they cover the airfield near Eilat, the new airfield near Uvda and the airfield east of Beersheba which we will be building after the withdrawal from Sinai. We will not be in the position to take off from other airfields or to land from the east.

SPIEGEL: You once said you would not allow Jordan to be equipped with F-16 fighters and Hawk missiles. What do you plan to do about this?

Sharon: I did not say that. I said something in Hebrew that was translated into French, then into English and then back into Hebrew. What I really said was that in such a situation Israel could not afford to stand idly by and just observe such developments. Look, (unrolls a map), this is Jordan, that is Israel, here is the Dead Sea, here the Jordan River, there is Jerusalem and Beersheba. The yellow line marks the range of Jordanian artillery and this line shows the range of the Hawk missiles. Jerusalem is fully covered.

SPIEGEL: The Hawks have a range of about 40 km. However, what do you mean when you say you cannot "stand idly by?"

Sharon: Why should we go into detail now? Look here at the range of the F-16 planes (unrolls a map). They can go as far as Cyprus, and will be able to hit targets in our country within 2 minutes.

SPIEGEL: So you have an alert time of zero seconds?

Sharon: Yes, we must live with a warning time of zero. We cannot live with it, if we have the 1967 borders. Impossible. (Unrolls a new map). I think I have shown you this map before...

SPIEGEL: Yes, that is the famous map we were not permitted to photograph when we visited your office in January 1979.

Sharon: This is a historic map because it was the first map I presented to the government in July 1977.

SPIEGEL: The general plan of your settlement policy.

Sharon: Everybody was laughing, making jokes and saying: Look, ghost towns. But I was serious about it.

SPIEGEL: Is the settlement policy still valid for you? Are the settlers still supposed to resist an attack with their antitank weapons as long as possible until your troops have been mobilized?

Sharon: Yes, together with a small permanent unit. On the east front we cannot run any risks at all. Since Israel is in the news every day, people think that Israel is some sort of a giant. In fact, however, Israel is a tiny country. From the Jordan in the east to the Mediterranean coast in the west -- without referring to any political solution -- the distance is 70 km, just 70!

SPIEGEL: An hour's drive.

Sharon: Yes, and we see thousands of tanks on the other side of our borders. The force we keep under arms is very small. We rely on our reservists for whom there is a plan to mobilize within 24 hours. Previously we could mobilize, equip and send our troops to the front without population centers being attacked. Today all of Israel is within range of the Soviet "Scud" missiles deployed in Syria. So we no longer have the advantage of mobilizing our troops without our population centers coming under fire.

SPIEGEL: You still consider your settlement policy as a basic pillar of your defense planning?

Sharon: We cannot do without it; we have not found a better solution.

SPIEGEL: You had settlements on the Golan and you controlled the entire area. Yet you have annexed the Golan Heights. Why? There was no need at all.

Sharon: That is what you think. For 19 years Syria waged a war of attribution against us. The Syrians were sitting on the heights, overlooking the entire northern part of our country. One-third of our water comes from the Golan Heights and Lebanon. When the people speak of the 6-day War of 1967, they mean 5 June 1967. However, that was not when the war began; it began on 3 November 1964 when Israel took steps for the first time against the rechannelling of water from the Jordan springs. Syria initiated this with the support of the entire Arab world. It did not want to use the water itself, but wanted to divert it around Israel into the Yarmuk River and then into the Dead Sea. For us that was a matter of life and death.

SPIEGEL: But you were in control of the Golan Heights since 1967 anyway...

Sharon: There is a third factor. Syria has occupied large parts of Lebanon since January 1967, and suddenly we were facing the Syrians along our northern border. Nobody has said anything against that. Have you ever written about the fact that 120,000 people have been killed in Lebanon since 1975? Have you even mentioned the Syrian artillery shelling which lasted for days, weeks and months?

SPIEGEL: Certainly we reported on it, we were in Lebanon.

Sharon: One more thing. Did you ever write anything against the massacre in Hamah? One of the most ancient of cities was destroyed....

SPIEGEL: And DER SPIEGEL published a lengthy report on it.

Sharon: Some 6,000 civilians were killed, and that's normal, it's normal, and nothing happened. But when stones are thrown in the Gaza Strip, all of you are around. You can also say: Look, everything was legitimate, the Syrians were, after all, invited into Lebanon. However, this is a profound change in our situation and is a genuine threat to us. They have artillery there with a range of 42 km.

SPIEGEL: They also have rockets.

Sharon: They have rockets. Suddenly the center of our chemical industry north of Haifa is within the range of Syrian artillery. This is how the situation has changed. This is why we had to make it absolutely clear that since Lebanon is occupied by Syria we...

SPIEGEL: ...will not withdraw from the Golan Heights?

Sharon: Yes, we had to make it absolutely clear that we are there.

SPIEGEL: This embittered even your most important ally, the United States. How do you assess U.S.-Israeli relations? Is there a turn away from you?

Sharon: We have a fundamental friendship and profound mutual interests. However, there are also many differences of views, many indeed.

SPIEGEL: How do you interpret the U.S. change in the U.S. course and its rapprochement with the Arabs?

Sharon: I don't think there is any change in course. Probably this involves the attempt to draw the Arab countries to its side. I believe, too, that often there is not enough understanding of the situation.

SPIEGEL: On the part of the new U.S. Government?

Sharon: No, no, in general. I'll show you a map now on which you can see how the West has lost in this region in the past 25-27 years. Let me emphasize once again that it is not the current government in Washington which fails to understand the situation. On the contrary, this government perhaps has begun to comprehend the serious threat from the Soviets in this region. Look, I took this map with me to Washington (shows map).

SPIEGEL: To whom did you show it?

Sharon: To Secretary of State Haig and Secretary of Defense Weinberger.

SPIEGEL: That probably made the Reagan people happy.

Sharon: Now, let's take a look at what has happened here in the past 25 years. This was the situation in 1955: no Soviet bridgehead in the Middle East or in Africa. Here's the situation as it is today. You can spot the corridor the Soviets have created for themselves from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic, from the Indian Ocean to the Atlantic. Look at what the Soviets have done in all these years. They now have 1,250 tanks in Syria, they are stockpiled there, unmanned tanks, Potemkin ghost tanks waiting for God knows whom. Likewise 1,900 tanks are in Libya, very interesting indeed.

This Soviet expansion is a threat to us for two reasons. First, the military threat because without this Soviet arms supply, the Arabs could never have waged war again after the battles for independence in 1948. Second, the fact that the Americans lose interest in other parts of the world, just as they did after Vietnam. They lost interest in the Far East and this resulted in a highly dangerous situation for the countries there. To us, however, it is a question of life or death, just as it is for Europe, of course.

SPIEGEL: At this time, of all times, your new partner Egypt seems to be turning away from you and moving closer again to the Arab camp. Does this make you nervous?

Sharon: No, not me. That does not worry me as long as this does not harm relations between Egypt and Israel. I never believed that Egypt could dissociate itself from the Arab world. However, one thing ought to be clear. We would, of course, not interfere in the relations between Egypt and the Arab countries -- just as we do not tolerate any interference in our relations with other countries -- as long as this does not have any effect on the peace treaty. It is necessary to realize that the peace treaty involves a continuous process. A peace treaty is not completed at the moment it is signed. This actually only marks the beginning of the process, and this, I hope will steadily develop.

SPIEGEL: How long do you think the present peace will last? Are you hopeful? Will the war you fought in be the last one?

Sharon: Concerning Egypt I readily believe that we have peace for good.

SPIEGEL: What about the other countries?

Sharon: I don't know. This is really hard to tell. After all, this is not a stable region; so many things happen. So many -- you know, we have so many problems cannot touch. [sentence as published] There are so many questions regarding Lebanon and other developments. However, we do hope for peace, and there cannot be any doubt about our desire for peace. We, in any event, are making every effort to make peace last.

As I said before, the military people are suspected of liking to wage war. But believe me, the people who saw all the horrors of war -- and I did see them -- long for peace more than anyone else in political life. And Israel needs peace.

SPIEGEL: Mr Sharon, thank you for this interview.

EYTAN INTERVIEW ON MILITARY, POLITICAL ISSUES

TA071525 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Apr 82 pp 14, 15

[Interview with Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan by Ya'aqov Erez on 6 April in Eytan's office: "So Long as Terrorist Activities Occur -- There Is No Cease-Fire as far as Israel Is Concerned"]

[Excerpts] Question: Has there been an increase in terrorist activity lately?

Answer: There has indeed been an increase in terrorist activity in Israel and abroad. Not all the attempts have been successful but there have been more acts lately than in the past. I think what happened in the territories is a result of the PLO's goals and the terrorists' initiative.

Question: Was the murder of the Israeli diplomat in Paris perpetrated by the terrorists?

Answer: One of the terrorist organizations has admitted it committed this murder and it transpires that this organization was also involved in the murder of the U.S. attache in Lebanon [as published]. The PLO is behind the terrorist actions, though it sometimes used "false" names to cover its trail.

Question: Do these actions endanger the cease-fire?

Answer: So long as these actions occur there is no cease-fire. This has been stated by the government. The cease-fire should apply to shooting and not to places. The terrorists said that the cease-fire exists only in southern Lebanon and does not compel them to stop other terrorist acts. Without unnecessary verbosity, it is possible to say that as far as Israel is concerned the cease-fire is not being maintained.

Question: Might a confrontation with the terrorists cause a confrontation with the Syrians?

Answer: In my assessment, the matter depends on the Syrians. It is hard to know in advance how they will act. Our line of thought does not always coincide with their's. There are internal pressures there that may affect events. They can misjudge relations between the superpowers. [Our] conduct should be accordingly. We already know from the experience in past wars that how the Arabs think is not always compatible with our way of thinking.

Question: From the point of view of security activity, are we on the threshold of a new period?

Answer: No. After 26 April it is possible to say that a new era will begin. There will be a change in a situation that has lasted for almost 15 years. It is possible that a new period will begin or that PLO behavior will continue unchanged.

Question: Are the terrorists in Lebanon continuing to arm themselves?

Answer: Yes, there are signs that they are growing stronger. They have equipped themselves with many cannons of all types and with tanks. They have also set up fortifications, tunnels, warehouses and command posts. But this deployment cannot stand against us. The very fact that they are establishing something of a regular army is making things easier for us. It was more difficult to fight squads and underground groups.

Question: In case of [an Israeli] action, are the terrorists liable to renew shelling and attrition attempts?

Answer: They may try to adopt such an approach. The settlements, as far as they are concerned, are targets. But we will be able to maneuver them into a situation where they will be unable to shoot at our settlements. Today we should treat a bomb at the hitchhiking point in Ma'ale Addumim just as we treat a cannonshell hitting Avivim [a northern border settlement]. From Israel's point of view there is no difference if a handgrenade is thrown in Gaza or if a mortar shell is fired at a border settlement.

Question: Was the attitude the same in the past?

Answer: In the past, too, we treated terrorist acts the same way. Before adopting the tactic of taking the initiative, we reacted to terrorist acts in retaliation. When the terrorist act in Ashqelon occurred we retaliated by bombing Lebanese targets from the air.

Question: Was the cease-fire important for us?

Answer: When there is no shooting, this is beneficial to us. We did not need time for organizing. The cease-fire led to quiet along the northern border but the terrorists took advantage of this cease-fire to organize. They have strengthened their units and improved their deployment all this time.

Question: You are now beginning your fifth year of service as chief of staff. How do you assess your performance at the end of the usual 4-year term and on the eve of beginning your extended period in office?

Answer: I have not assessed my performance.

Question: Are you satisfied with the IDF's conduct in the territories?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Are you content with how the IDF is functioning?

Answer: Certainly.

Question: What is characteristic of this conduct?

Answer: The characteristics are meticulous observance of instructions under heavy pressures and facing great problems. We must not compare ourselves to other armies in similar situations. You know what could happen.

Question: Isn't the use of the army in civilian sectors exaggerated?

Answer: No. Why are you not talking of settlement?

Question: I will talk about settlement as well then. For instance, the outposts in Judaea and Samaria....

Answer: These are fire control settlements.

Question: What fire control?

Answer: Fire control, to guarantee that there will be as many army outposts as possible in the area so that stones are not thrown, crossroads not blocked, riots not happen and so on. There are 9 such outposts in Judaea and Samaria and 16 in the Gaza Strip.

There is no intention to harm the Nahal, God forbid. We took regular soldiers, within the framework of the free service program, instead of mobilizing reserves.

Question: Will the outposts serve as a basis for settlements?

Answer: No. It is possible that some of them will turn into military bases in the future, perhaps. I have no plan -- there is no plan that I know of for turning such outposts into settlements.

Question: Will Yamit be evacuated in a large-scale military operation or slowly?

Answer: Nobody knows anything about Yamit.

Question: You, too, know nothing of what will happen in Yamit?

Answer: No.

Question: In the course of the 4 years you are now finishing, were some measures adopted that you regret today?

Answer: No.

Question: In your opinion, was it not a mistake to shoot down the Syrian helicopters in the Sannin mountains area?

Answer: No.

Question: Why?

Answer: We said we would help the Christians and prevent Syrian aerial activity against them; this is what we did and we did it well. The Syrians understood this and it may be that this act prevented a much larger war. Whoever says that the Syrian SAM's were introduced into the Al-Biqa' region due to this, either does not know the facts or is lying. The desire to introduce the missiles existed even before this. But the Syrians then had a very good pretext. Even if we had not shot the helicopters down, it is very likely that the missiles would have been introduced into this region.

Question: Did we create this pretext for the Syrians?

Answer: In this kind of battle every party occasionally uses some kind of excuse. Why did the Syrians enter Lebanon? They found an excuse for this.

Question: Are we not liable to give the Syrians another excuse, this time to confront us, if we carry out some action in southern Lebanon? Will an action in southern Lebanon not provide the Syrians with a pretext?

Answer: The question is: What alternative do you have and what is a pretext? Let us then go to the sea and settle in Cyprus. Then the Arabs will have no excuse to blow up the coastal road or commit other terrorist acts.

Question: Do you believe that an Israeli action in southern Lebanon might drag the Syrians into war?

Answer: I am not talking of action in southern Lebanon.

Question: Theoretically speaking?

Answer: I am not talking in theoretical terms. We are weighing a certain course of action. We are weighing all considerations.

Question: In the wake of their internal problems, are the Syrians ready to go to war with Israel?

Answer: Ask the Syrians.

Question: I hope you know what is happening with the Syrians.

Answer: Whatever I know, do you expect me to tell you?

Question: What is your assessment of the Christians in Lebanon?

Answer: I believe the Christian community is very desirous of keeping its character and of fighting to keep Lebanon its country, just as it used to be. I believe they have the ability to survive and ideals they are prepared to sacrifice and fight for.

Question: Have you visited Lebanon?

Answer: I have visited many places.

Question: Such as?

Answer: All continents except Southeast Asia.

Question: I would like to ask you about the 10 days of attrition in the north in July 1981. According to impressions one could gain on the ground the war uncovered "our soft underbelly." Today, following the checks and debriefings carried out after July, do you not think that the operation was improperly carried out, perhaps due to political constraints?

Answer: This is not true. There were times when the border areas were in much worse situations -- shellings, squads, terrorist acts and the like. This fact is ignored for reasons I do not understand. The terrorists wanted a cease-fire in July because they faced the danger of collapsing, and with Israel's agreement the cease-fire was indeed achieved and the firing stopped.

Question: You were not happy about the cease-fire, were you?

Answer: In my opinion, a cease-fire is a good thing. It is good when there is no shooting. I repeat: In this case it was the terrorists who requested the cease-fire. They were on the verge of collapse. They appealed to the Saudis, telling them that if a cease-fire was not effected within 48 hours, the Palestinian revolution would collapse. Since the war of independence, whenever the Arabs faced the danger of collapse, they were rescued. This was the case during the war of independence, in 1956, in 1967 and in 1973. Somebody in the world always came to the Arabs' rescue when they were on the point of falling. There was a cease-fire. I did not see this war as the last war and I am sure it will not be the last war. We will find a way to overcome their organizing during this cease-fire.

Question: This terrorists' organizing -- does it constitute a real threat to Israel?

Answer: With their equipment, with modern arms one faces more risks -- not for our military system but for the line of confrontation. With more cannons they can reach more settlements, and this is their target. Their major objective is to hit such places, since they do not truly distinguish among targets.

Question: Does the cease-fire in Lebanon not indicate that Israel has regained its deterrent qualities after a long period of time?

Answer: Deterrence should be seen from a perspective over time. All the wars erupted at one point. They broke out when the Arabs believed they were ready or that they had some other chance. In my opinion, there is no such thing as deterrence. Whenever the Arabs believe they are ready, they will go to war. When they think they are unprepared they just sit quietly.

Question: When will the current cease-fire be over?

Answer: I do not know.

Question: Is a war to be expected in the next few months? There has been a great deal of talk about it.

Answer: We should always take a sober view of this matter. We expect to have a war with the Arabs, but I do not know when. As long as there is no peace with the Arabs, we should expect a war.

Question: Is the IDF ready for war?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Is the IDF more ready for a war today than in the past?

Answer: Yes, much more so.

Question: Does the IDF stock any surprises which it will exercise in time of war?

Answer: A great many.

Question: Are there any surprises in warfare?

Answer: A very great many.

Question: In the last 4 years, has there been a significant development in the means of warfare in the possession of the IDF and developed by the IDF?

Answer: There have been many, many, many developments.

Question: Are the means of warfare developed in the last 4 years likely to change the battlefield situation in case of action?

Answer: It depends on where the battlefield is. In principle, the answer is affirmative.

Question: Namely, the IDF has revolutionary news in the field of the means of warfare?

Answer: Revolutionary -- that is your word. There are surprises.

Question: Unprecedented surprises?

Answer: There have never been such surprises in the past.

Question: Let us discuss another topic. We are now leaving the Sinai after many years, during which it was considered ours in all our military planning. Looking at it only from the security and military point of view, what does this change entail?

Answer: The military appendix to the peace treaty in fact compensates for the areas of the Sinai. This was taken into account in previous planning along with the presence of the MFO and the absence of an army. From the security point of view, the military appendix is the answer to the State of Israel.

Question: Is that answer sufficient?

Answer: If the peace treaty prevails, this answer is sufficient.

Question: Have there been any military developments in the Arab countries that would indicate preparations and deployment for an action against Israel?

Answer: Development in the Arab armies points at a desire to fight; the strengthening of Arab armies points in that direction. Had they not wished to fight, they would not have spent billions of dollars on modern military equipment, on maneuvers, on a large regular army and on preparations. Only an army preparing for a war makes such moves. Generally speaking, it may be said that the Arabs are preparing for a war.

Question: Have there been any developments in this field in Syria?

Answer: Developments have occurred in the field of the most modern means of warfare -- tanks, armored carriers, aircraft, SAM's and in organization and training. Syria is very energetically preparing for war.

Question: If there is a war with Syria, are the Soviets liable to extend active assistance to the Syrians?

Answer: This depends to a large extent on the Americans.

Question: Are you satisfied of the current state of cooperation between Israel and the United States?

Answer: There is ordinary and regular cooperation and in the military sphere everything is running smoothly.

U.S. OFFICIALS FEAR ISRAELI ACTION IN LEBANON

TA090910 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 Apr 82 p 1

[Refa'el Mann report]

[Text] The fear of an Israeli military action against the terrorists in Lebanon has increased over the last few days. Administration officials expressed the hope last night that Israel will not take advantage of the fact that international attention is now focusing on the Falkland Islands crisis. U.S. officials dealing with the issue repeated their hope that Israel will abide by its commitment and refrain from military action. In private talks they made it clear that Washington will take a very grave view of an Israeli action when the United States is preoccupied with efforts to prevent war between Britain and Argentina.

In this content they mentioned the fact that Israel used a similar international situation when martial law was declared in Poland in order to pass the Golan Law. "Every act or declaration which can threaten the continuation of the cease-fire worries us," a U.S. official said yesterday. Publicly the State Department spokesman abstained from elaborating on this issue. When asked yesterday about a concentration of Israeli forces on the Lebanese border, he answered that he possessed no information about this.

TENSION REPORTED CONTINUING IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

TA090558 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 9 Apr 82

[Excerpt] There is tension on the Lebanese border in view of the increasing number of rumors of possible Israeli action against the terrorists. The UNIFIL command in southern Lebanon says the cease-fire is being maintained throughout the front, even though an alert is noted near terrorist positions in the region and residents are leaving the coastal towns of Tyre and Sidon. This indicated high tension and nervousness in southern Lebanon. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports from the northern border.

[Begin recording] In contacts lately held with UNIFIL officers, the terrorists repeatedly emphasized that they are observing all rules of the cease-fire. There are also attempts by PLO members to impose this message on the members of about 20 other organizations spread throughout the area -- terrorist and leftist organizations which also have positions and arms in southern Lebanon. There is no question that this is a test of control for the PLO command in Beirut. It should be noted that up till now the PLO field commanders in the south have managed to ensure that the Beirut command's orders and instructions were implemented in the field.

Alerts and preparations are noted near terrorist positions all along the front. Trucks arriving from the north were seen unloading equipment and ammunition at the end of the week. There is a movement of civilians northward from Tyre and Sidon and a maximum alert has been declared in terrorist coastal fortifications in the Ar-Rashidiyah area. Residents from the south gave up plans to travel by road toward Beirut, since the terrorists' nervousness at the roadblocks may, in their opinion, end in unpleasant incidents. It should be noted that normally, on the Easter eve, there is a lively traffic of visitors and merchants.

BOYCOTT OF PRO-ISRAELI GOLAN DRUZE RENEWED

TA081235 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] A boycott of persons who possess Israeli identification cards and who work in Israel has been renewed in Golan Druze villages. Druze sources told our correspondent Yo'el Dar that no violence is used against Israel's supporters but they are socially ostracized. In their estimation about 70 percent of the 4,500 Druze who received identification cards got rid of them in one manner or another. Some tore them up, some threw them in the streets and some deposited them in the hands of the strike organizers so that they could be returned to Israeli authorities.

GOLAN DRUZE LEADER TO TURN IN ISRAELI ID CARD

TA090554 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 9 Apr 82

[Text] The spiritual leader of the Golan Heights Druze, Shaykh Salman Tahir, says he supports the general strike against Israeli rule. He also said he plans to turn in the Israeli ID card which he's been given. Shaykh Tahir met with a delegation from the HADASH communist party.

SHARON REACTS TO DRUZE STRIKE WITH SETTLEMENTS

TA090955 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 9 Apr 82 p 1

[Nahum Barne'a report]

[Excerpt] One of the government's reactions to the continuation of the strike by Druze in the Golan Heights will be the establishment near a Druze enclave of two Israeli settlements, which Israel had refrained from setting up during the 15 years of its occupation of the area. One settlement, to be called Nimrod, will be set up on Mount Qeta'. The second settlement will be situated on Tall (Manfuha), northeast of Birkat Ram, near the Syrian border. Ari'el Sharon decided on the establishment of the two settlements during the height of the identification card crisis in the Golan Heights, following a proposal by the Golan Heights settlement committee.

IDF SOLDIERS SHOOT, KILL PALESTINIAN WOMAN

TA081708 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] 'Aziza Husayn 'Isa, 50, from the village of 'Ayn Yabrud was shot dead today by IDF soldiers near the Bet El military camp. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the IDF soldiers warned the woman not to get close to an ammunition depot in the camp. However, when she did not heed the warnings she was shot and killed. The incident is currently under investigation.

BETHLEHEM STUDENTS PROTEST LEAGUES, DISPERSE

TA081315 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] The students and teachers of the local university in Bethlehem who staged a sit-down strike at the municipality building dispersed this afternoon. Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari reports that the students dispersed of their own will following negotiations between Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj and the Military Government in which it was decided that the Military Government would not harm the students.

The strike was staged to protest activities by the village leagues in the territories. The students chanted slogans in support of the PLO and accused the village leagues of having violently attacked the dean of students of Bethlehem University last night. The Israeli committee for solidarity with Bi'r Zayt University has attributed the attacks to the village leagues and denounced them. However, the village leagues have denied any connection with the incidents.

SETTLEMENTS TO SHOW RESOLVE TO HOLD ARAB LAND

TA090908 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 Apr 82 p 12

[Yosef Waxman report]

[Text] Two days after the withdrawal from the Yamit District, the establishment of 11 new settlements [he'ahzuyot] in Judaea and Samaria will be announced. These will become permanent settlements [yishuvei keva'] and will be named after the abandoned settlements [yishuvim].

The purpose of the decision to set up the settlements (some will be established in the Golan Heights and in the Gaza Strip, with the majority in Judaea and Samara) just after the completion of the withdrawal is to prove before the world that the drive of Zionist settlement is not stopping, but is continuing.

Another reason for the decision is the government's intention to demonstrate its resolve to hold on to Judaea, Samaria, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights.

Nahal headquarters is preparing currently to carry out this order, which was initiated by the Defense Ministry, to have these points ready for settlement. It is also making preparations for a large ceremony to be held on the occasion of the announcement of the establishment of the 11 settlements.

GAZA MAYOR URGES ISRAEL-USSR-U.S. DECLARATION

TA081522 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwa has called for an Israel-U.S.-Soviet declaration of intent concerning the granting of self-determination to the Palestinians as a stage in anticipation of the establishment of a Palestinian state. The mayor has said that in the wake of such a declaration it will be possible to implement the plan for full autonomy in the territories. Rashad ash-Shawwa made these remarks in an interview published by the Egyptian weekly AL-MUSAWWAR. Alternately, he proposes that the Camp David accords be amended to assure self-determination to the Palestinians. Ash-Shawwa says such an amendment will enable all the Arabs to come out in support of the Camp David accords.

Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari points out that Rashad ash-Shawwa, unlike other personalities in the territories, has never opposed the autonomy plan in principle but objected to specific terms (?included by Israel). Ash-Shawwa's position has now been reinforced through the interview with the Egyptian weekly.

POST EDITORIAL ON NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT

TA070855 Jerusalem POST in English 7 Apr 82 p 12

[Editorial: "Self-Inflicted Emergency"]

[Text] As a conversation piece intended for the seder table tonight, along with the tale of the exodus from bondage in Egypt, Prime Minister Menahem Begin's renewed plea at Dimona on Monday for a national unity government -- "of all Zionist parties in the country" -- was, whatever one may think of it, beautifully timed. At the very least it will draw some attention away from such painful subjects as Yamit, the Golan, or the West Bank.

But was that plea a serious invitation to the Labour Alignment to join the present Likud coalition under Mr Begin? Certainly the audience at the dedication ceremony of Ze'ev Jabotinsky square in the Negev development town, which greeted it with applause mixed with laughter, did not seem to think so. Mr Begin prefaced his plea with the statement that he did not care what the response to it would be -- and he ended it by noting, not without a touch of irony, that he would "now await the response."

This is not the way to make an offer of partnership to an opposition party, whose parliamentary strength is more than the Likud's equal. What it is, on the other hand, except an amusing diversion, is an attempt to put the onus on the Alignment for the failure to get together in the face of the severe trials clearly awaiting the country in the days ahead.

The response of Labour leader Shim'on Peres, on being informed of Mr Begin's plea, was to turn it down flat, the same as he did when it was first floated last February. But Mr Peres did not accede to MAPAM's suggestion for a complete disavowal of any notion of a national unity government under any circumstances whatever. Such a disavowal would not, indeed, be in the party's or the country's interest.

In a dire emergency, for example, the unity of all national forces would plainly be called for. But this is not the case today.

Or if it is, then it is due not to any sudden threat from the outside but only to the fact that the Begin government had maneuvered itself into the tightest political corner ever -- through its commitment to a doctrine of a Greater Eretz Yisra'el which is to embrace all the occupied territories remaining under Israel's control after the final evacuation from Sinai. If Mr Begin foresees some difficulty in selling this doctrine -- which would leave a little over three million Jews to lord it over nearly two million Arabs in the Jewish state -- to Israel's friends, including the U.S., he is absolutely right.

Yet this is the doctrine which formed the central plank in the Likud's electoral platform last summer, and which the premier views as unalterably binding on his government.

Mr Begin must indeed expect that there would be heavy American pressure bearing down on him after 26 April for some meaningful concessions on the autonomy, and that these concessions would entail the abandonment of the grand design of a Greater Eretz Yisra'el, at least for the duration of the autonomy's life. To help him withstand the pressure, the premier understandably wishes to broaden his popular support to encompass "all Zionist parties in the country."

Theoretically this could, of course, be achieved by coaxing the alignment -- or at any event the Labour Party -- into coalition with the Likud. But Mr Begin proposes to do it without making the slightest dent in his platform, as though his own specialized brand of Zionism represented the national consensus. That renders the entire proposition rather impractical.

On that basis it is possible for the premier, and his associates, to have a fruitful ad hoc discussion of pending security issues with Mr Peres, and his associates, but not a regular political liaison. As it stands, the invitation to the Labour Party is an invitation to a self-beheading.

LIBYAJANA CITES IRAN'S 'UNLIMITED SUPPORT' FOR LIBYA

LD081926 Tripoli JANA in English 1815 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] Kuwait, 8 Apr (JANA) -- Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister, reaffirmed his country's unlimited support for the jamahiriya in its confrontation of U.S. ambitions.

He told a JANA correspondent here Iran will firmly stand by the Libyan people in their brave confrontation of any military attack launched by Washington. He also expressed his country's condemnation of U.S. intention to carry out military manoeuvres in the Gulf of Sidra within Libyan territorial waters.

He praised the brotherly relations between both Muslim peoples, stressing their strength and their good impact on the causes of independence and emancipation from imperialism.

SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICIAL MEETS ROMANIA'S PATAN

LD081948 Tripoli JANA in English 1846 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] Tripoli, 8 Apr (JANA) -- Secretary general of people's committee of social security met here this morning with Ion Patan, Romanian deputy prime minister, who is on a visit to the jamahiriya. They discussed aspects of bilateral cooperation and ways of developing and strengthening it.

BRIEFS

IRANIAN DELEGATION -- An Iranian Majlis delegation led by Deputy Hasan Rohani arrived in Tripoli yesterday to participate in the 10th anniversary of the withdrawal of British forces from Libya. [Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 26 Mar 82 GF]

ROMANIAN INDUSTRIAL MINISTER -- Tripoli, 6 Apr (JANA) -- The Romanian minister of industrial construction, Mr Ion Stanesco, and his accompanying delegation arrived here last night. [Text] [Tripoli JANA in English 0923 GMT 6 Apr 82 LD]

MOROCCOBRIEFS

DEPARTING PRC ENVOY -- Rabat, 7 Apr (MAP) -- Mr Mohamed Kabbaj, Moroccan minister of the equipment, received here Tuesday the Chinese ambassador to Rabat, Mr Mi Yung who paid him a farewell visit. The Chinese ambassador underscored the Moroccan-Chinese cooperation especially in the field of equipment and expressed thanks for the collaboration of the Moroccan Government. The Moroccan minister paid homage to the efforts stepped up by the Chinese diplomat during his stay in Morocco with climaxed with the construction of the Rabat sports complex and expressed hope to see this cooperation extend to other fields. [Text] [Rabat MAP in English 1217 GMT 7 Apr 82 LD]

NEW MINISTER APPOINTED -- His majesty the king has received Taieb Bencheikh who the sovereign has appointed minister attached to the prime minister with responsibility for economic affairs. [Casablanca LE MATIN in French 24 Mar 82 p 1 PM]

SUDANSUDANESE-EGYPTIAN ECONOMIC COUNCIL MEETS 7 APR

EA081234 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 7 Apr 82

[Excerpt] The opening meeting of the joint Egyptian-Sudanese economic council was held this morning at friendship hall in Khartoum in the presence of Faruz Ibrahim al-Maqbul, minister of cooperation, commerce and supply; Muhammad al-Bashir al-Waqi, minister of industry; and his excellency the ambassador of Egypt in Khartoum.

(Fath) ar-Rahman al-Bashir, head of the Sudanese side at the council meetings, greeted members of the Egyptian-Sudanese council, pointing out that the joint economic council is another climax in building economic and social integration between Sudan and Egypt.

Faruq Ibrahim al-Maqbul also spoke. His excellency stressed the need to complete the formal measures concerning the setting up the Nile Valley bank for commerce and development in order to create the means of establishing new investments between Sudan and Egypt.

'Izzat (Idan), leading the Egyptian side, also spoke. His excellency gave an explanation of the object in establishing the Nile Valley bank for commerce and development. At the end of his speech, (Idan) asked the Sudanese and Egyptian sides to ensure that the establishment of this bank is carried out through a special law so that it will contribute to investment in the two countries.

WESTERN SAHARAFORCES ATTACK MOROCCAN POSITION 4-5 APR

LD090810 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 9 Apr 82

[Text] According to a statement by the Saharan Information Ministry, a unit of the liberation army on 4-5 April attacked a military position of the Moroccan expansionist forces near (Dakhla). The statement pointed out that this shelling resulted in the killing of a number of the aggressive forces, in the destruction of a large quantity of military equipment and in the setting on fire of military installations.

ETHIOPIAERITREAN LEADER COMMENTS ON CONTACTS WITH MOSCOW

GF081400 Manama AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 8 Apr 82 p 5

[Interview granted by Osman Saleh Sabbe, chairman of the Central Council and Executive Committee of the Eritrean Liberation Front-Popular Liberation Forces to AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ correspondent Muhammad 'Umar, in Manama, "during his recent visit to Bahrain"]

[Excerpts] [Question] It is reported that you held a dialogue with the Soviet Union on the Eritrean-Ethiopian dispute.

[Answer] During a meeting with leaders of the Eritrean organizations, Brother Ahmed Naser, secretary general of the Revolutionary Council, told us he visited Moscow and held talks there on this issue and that the Soviets told him that they will exert efforts for a political solution if we accept a compromise by keeping Eritrea part of Ethiopia under some kind of federation. We don't reject peaceful solutions, whatever their sources. However, a solution would have to be open to a referendum carried out under international supervision to determine if the Eritrean people will accept total annexation to Ethiopia or a federation or total independence.

[Question] What is your front's stand toward the Soviet Union?

[Answer] We have no animosity toward the Soviet Union. However, we reject communist principles. We have contacts with the Soviet Union through Arab countries who have close relations with Moscow. We maintain these contacts to explain our just cause. I would like to point out that we condemn Soviet military bases in Ethiopia just as we previously condemned the American bases established in our country under Emperor Haile Selassie. We struggled against these bases by kidnapping American soldiers from the bases of Asmara and Massaua in 1975. Since we previously rejected U.S. bases, we must reject Soviet bases in our country.

[Question] What are the Ethiopian plots posing threats to the security and peace of Arab and African countries?

[Answer] During my current tour of a number of Arab countries, their officials referred to reports and facts confirming that Ethiopia is training Arabs and Africans in the use of arms. There is a plot to infiltrate these trainees in their countries in the future to carry out their assigned missions when the time is convenient.

[Question] Do you have a list of names of countries whose nationals are being trained in these centers?

[Answer] Yes. We have lists. We also have documents showing the names of these trainees and their Arab countries. We will submit these documents to the concerned countries.

TIGREAN SPOKESMAN REPORTS MILITARY SUCSESSES

EA071630 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1400 GMT 7 Apr 82

[Text] In a press conference at the Somali Democratic Republic's Ministry of Information and National Guidance in Mogadishu this morning, a Tigrean People's Liberation Front [TPLF] spokesman, (Yemane Zemeni), who is visiting Somalia, said the TPLF killed several thousand Abyssinian black colonialist forces in the past few weeks.

The TPLF spokesman, (Yemane Zemeni), added that his liberation movement, with assistance from the Eritrean People's Liberation Front [EPLF] had succeeded in wiping out several divisions of the Abyssinian black colonialist forces. The spokesman added that several divisions of the Abyssinian black colonialist forces, backed by PDRY forces, also suffered heavy casualties in Wollo Province in March alone. The spokesman added that the TPLF forces killed 200 militiamen from the Abyssinian black colonialist forces in the past week and captured a very large quantity of arms and ammunition [words indistinct] in Wollo Province. (Yemane Zemeni), accompanied by the TPLF representative here in Mogadishu, said his liberation front expects assistance from the world at large because it is confronted not only by the Abyssinian colonialist forces but by forces from various countries which have collaborated to wipe out the Tigrean people.

UGANDA

SECURITY FORCES ROUND UP 'AT LEAST 5,000'

AB081610 Paris AFP in English 1543 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] Kampala, Apr 8 (AFP) -- There was still no official comment this afternoon regarding yesterday's large scale operation by Ugandan security forces in which thousands of civilians were rounded up in the southern suburbs of Kampala.

The operation was thought to have been the largest of its kind in Kampala, with at least five thousand men rounded up from an estimated fifteen villages south of the capital. Less conservative estimates by officials of the opposition Democratic Party put the figure at no less than 10,000 men rounded up in the operation which covered almost five square miles.

All three independent dailies circulating in Kampala today reported that their employees were among those held during the operation which was mounted jointly by regular Ugandan policemen, the para-military special force unit, and the army. In most previous operations, it is mostly the unemployed or casual labourers who fall victims to the security swoops -- usually following an attack by anti-government guerrillas on important government installations or army convoys. But the security operation yesterday followed no such attack, and quite a variety of people were rounded up, from office executives and company managers down to tramps in the slums of Kampala.

Among those held yesterday were reporters, two clergymen belonging to the Church of Uganda, and the chauffeur of the Ugandan Roman Catholic Cardinal Nsubuga. "They just went for any male", one eye-witness said in Kampala today. All these were herded into an open football ground at Nsambya, one kilometre outside Kampala, for identity checks and "screening".

According to eye-witness reports, most of the people held in the football ground near the Nsambya hospital for the greater part of the day yesterday were released early in the evening and allowed to return to their homes. The number of those still held by the authorities could not be ascertained today, and the official media has not even reported that the operation took place.

The operation yesterday was reportedly less violent than usual, as it was conducted mostly by regular policemen and the special force unit rather than the army -- although there were reports of five civilian casualties yesterday which could not be confirmed. But the operations are beginning to take on a more regular appearance, and the general thinking here is that they are likely to continue in their intensify for as long as the guerrilla threat to the government remains.

At a recent press briefing in Kampala Vice President Paulo Muwanga said the government suspected some of the guerrilla pockets in Kampala were in the Najjanankumbi and Namasuba suburbs, three miles outside the city. The suburbs have been searched three times since then.

SENEGALGOVERNMENT 'STRONGLY CONDEMNS' ISRAELI POLICY

AB062200 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 6 Apr 82

[Government statement issued in Dakar on 6 April]

[Text] The Government of Senegal continues to follow, with much concern, the tragedy of the Palestinian people who are martyrs and victims of repression by the Zionist occupation army. The brutal destitution of the Palestinian mayors on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip is within the framework of a systematic plan to deprive the Palestinian inhabitants of their territory, through organized violence and in a bloody manner. The implementation of this plan, in defiance of all legal, human and moral considerations, has been illustrated in the annexation of east Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan Heights. For its part, the Senegalese Government renews its unflinching solidarity with the Palestinian people in their liberation struggle under the leadership of the PLO, their illustrious and authentic representative. The Senegalese Government strongly condemns the policy of hegemony and domination of the Government and (?people) of Israel. This policy is contrary to the elementary rules of international law and a violation of the UN Charter.

DIOUF TO ATTEND CHAD MEETING, VISIT NIGER

AB062119 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 6 Apr 82

[Excerpts] The Cabinet met today at 0930 at the Palace of the Republic under the chairmanship of the head of state. The head of state informed the Cabinet that he will take part in the meeting of heads of state of members states of the OAU ad hoc committee on Chad. The meeting will be held on 24 April in Lagos. Before this date, he will pay an official visit to Niger from 17 to 18 April, to Abu Dhabi from 19 to 21 April and to Oman from 21 to 23 April. Finally, the president recalled the current situation in the Arab occupied countries and restated Senegal's position on the Middle East crisis.

TUNISIAN PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES IN DAKAR

AB030900 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 2 Apr 82

[Text] Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali arrived in Dakar this afternoon. He was met by Prime Minister and Mrs Habib Thiam, together with members of the government, the Economic and Social Council, the National Assembly and many Tunisian personalities. This is a friendly and working visit which doubtlessly will strengthen cooperation between Senegal and Tunisia, cooperation which is at a good level and which has to be made more dynamic if it is not what it should be, as was said a few weeks ago by the Tunisian minister of foreign affairs, who led a delegation to the meeting of the Senegal-Tunisia joint commission. Mzali said he will do everything to ensure that this cooperation becomes one of the most exemplary. He stated this on arrival at Dakar-Yoff airport:

[Begin recording] I am happy and honored to be in Senegal on an official visit at the invitation of my colleague and dear brother, Habib Thiam, the prime minister. This is the first African country outside the Arab Maghreb that I have visited officially as prime minister. [Words indistinct] this is explained by the exemplary relations of friendship and fraternity between our two countries, relations which were strengthened by Presidents Habib Bourguiba and Leopold Sedar Senghor, as well as by President Abdou Diouf [words indistinct] to strengthen and intensify and should be improved thanks to our two presidents, Abdou Diouf and Habib Bourguiba.

I greet President Abdou Diouf, my colleague and brother the prime minister, ministers of the government and the people of Senegal and I am convinced that this visit will mark a stage in the relations between the countries and that it will constitute [words indistinct]. [end recording]

The Tunisian prime minister tomorrow will hold private talks with the prime minister before being received by President Abdou Diouf. Mohamed Mzali and his wife will visit Louga where the activities marking the 22d anniversary of the country's independence are being held.

Gives Press Conference

AB060920 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 5 Apr 82

[Text] Mohamed Mzali, Tunisian prime minister, said today that Tunisia is in favor of holding an extraordinary summit meeting of the OAU. During a press conference shortly before his departure from our country, Mzali stressed that the Tunisian Government hopes to maintain the unity of Africa and, therefore, of the OAU. We will support every effort to save the OAU. Some people suggest the holding of an extraordinary summit to save the OAU. Tunisia will support this initiative.

Questioned on relations between Tunisia and Libya, the Tunisian prime minister said Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's recent visit to Tunisia is a new page opened on the basis of realism, understanding and goodneighborliness.

Concerning the recent verdict of the International Court of the Hague on the dispute between Libya and Tunisia concerning the continental shelf, Mzali said: "We respect law. We must abide by this decision regardless of whatever repercussions."

Responding to a question concerning the eventual formation of a national union government in Tunisia, the prime minister said: "This does not correspond to any reality."

On the other hand, Mzali expressed satisfaction with the positive outcome of his visit to Senegal, which has contributed to the development of economic-technical, scientific and cultural cooperation between our two countries. He recalled that Presidents Habib Bourguiba and Abdou Diouf inaugurated the first direct automatic telephone link between Dakar and Tunis, that Tunisian Airways inaugurated its first direct flight between the two capitals and that the Tunisian press agency, TAP, opened a permanent bureau in Dakar. Tunisia and Senegal agreed that henceforth their prime ministers will meet once a year alternatively in Tunis and Dakar.

Communique Published

LD061622 Tunis TAP in English 1429 GMT 6 Apr 82

["Pool" item]

[Text] Dakar, 6 Apr (TAF) -- Joint communique was published at the end of the official visit Tunisia's Premier Mohamed Mzali paid to Senegal from last April 2 to 5.

"This visit, says the communique, was characterized by 3 outstanding events the opening of the Tunis-Dakar airline by Tunis-Air, the week of Tuniso-Senegalese friendship and the inauguration of the direct telephone line Dakar-Tunis by Presidents Bourguiba of Tunisia and Abdou Diouf of Senegal.

In order to develop and extend bilateral co-operation, the two delegations agreed that, every other year, the prime minister of each one of the two countries will visit the other to take stock of the evolution of the co-operation and ensure its continuous development.

The two delegations also stressed their governments' will to work for the promotion of this co-operation in the economic and cultural fields.

Besides, the communique states that Tunisia and Senegal signed the 3 following agreements:

- A programme of cultural scientific and technical co-operation for 1982, 1983 and 1984.
- An agreement on technical co-operation in matters of staff.
- An agreement on air transport. Decisions have also been made for a better implementation of the already existing agreements between Tunisia and Senegal in matters of trade, rural and industrial development, maritime transport and tourist trade.

Evoking Arab-African co-operation, the two delegations expressed the need to develop it and adapt it to the great possibilities provided in this respect. They also expressed satisfaction at the forthcoming holding in Dakar, from April 22 to 23, of the permanent committee on Arab-African co-operation under the aegis of the O.A.U. and the Arab League, wishing that this meeting might lead to positive results.

NIASSE ASKS SUPPORTERS TO RETURN FROM LIBYA

AB031225 Paris AFP in French 1014 GMT 3 Apr 82

[Text] Dakar, 3 Apr (AFP) -- The Senegalese conservative opposition member, Ahmed Niasse, 35-years-old, who was released last Monday, told AFP that he asked his supporters still in Libya to return to Senegal and refrain from any subversive activity.

Niasse said about 15 of his supporters have returned to Senegal following his call which he described as "a good will gesture" on his part toward the Senegalese government. He hopes this gesture will allow him to resume normal political activities in Senegal.

Niasse admitted that he participated in Libya in the training of members of the Senegalese opposition to the regime of former President Senghor. These activities led to the break of diplomatic relations between Senegal and Libya in June 1980. The Senegalese opposition member feels that relations between the two countries could improve in the near future.

The release of Niasse took place after a "lack of evidence" concerning his involvement in fraud, which caused his extradition from Niger on 18 January [words indistinct] to Senegal for "military incitement to disobedience" and "attempting to make an association function without a prior announcement."

OPPOSITION SEEKS 'EQUAL UTILIZATION OF MEDIA'

AB071353 Paris AFP in French 1137 GMT 7 Apr 82

[Text] Dakar, 7 Apr (AFP) -- Eleven Senegalese opposition parties have denounced the "quasimonopoly" that the ruling "Socialist Party" has over the official news media and claimed the right to "equal utilization" of the media," during a joint press conference given in Dakar.

These parties said that their claims "are mostly ignored" by the official news organs despite the numerous representations made to the Senegalese authorities. They therefore called, among other things, for the broadcast of their communiques in full, for radio time to be granted on a monthly basis to each party for the total review of the press code and the introduction of a code for the use of official media during the electoral period.

ANGOLADEPUTY MINISTER REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR PLO

AB081425 Luanda Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] The solidarity of the Angolan people and Government of the MPLA-Labor Party with the PLO has been reaffirmed by the Angolan deputy minister of foreign affairs, Venancio de Moura, participating in the works of the extraordinary conference of the Coordinating Bureau of the Nonaligned Movement currently taking place in Kuwait. During the meeting concerning the Palestinian question, the Angolan official indicated that it will be impossible to establish an everlasting peace in the Middle East without the recognition of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, the return of the Palestinian people to their land illegally occupied by Zionist Israel and their right of self-determination and recognition of their own independent state. Comrade Venancio de Moura further stated that the prevailing situation in the Middle East and in southern African is in connection with the global strategy of international imperialism.

On the other hand, he denounced the collaboration of Washington, Pretoria and Tel Aviv in their terrorist, expansionist and inhuman apartheid regimes.

BURUNDIZAMBIAN PRESIDENT DEPARTS; AGREEMENTS SIGNED

AB082100 Paris AFP in French 1857 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] Bujumbura, 8 Apr (AFP) -- Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda left Bujumbura on Thursday afternoon at the end of a 2-day official visit to Burundi at the invitation of the President, Col Jean-Baptiste Bagaza.

During this visit, a general agreement on cooperation between the two countries was signed by the two heads of state. The Zambian ministers of commerce, finance, labor and equipment, who accompanied the head of state, and their Burundian counterparts also signed commercial, cultural, social and transport agreements.

A joint commission for cooperation was set up. According to the final communiqué signed by the two presidents, talks between the Zambian and Burundian heads of state, which covered a wide range of issues, touched on bilateral relations, the situation in Africa and international issues.

The two heads of state said they are convinced the basis for regional and (?continental) cooperation is solid bilateral relations and they believe in the possibility of a continental economic community by the year 2000.

They also condemned the attitude of South Africa, which has been thwarting the search for a solution to the Namibian problem and South Africa's acts of aggression against Angola. They equally reaffirmed their full support for the SWAPO, which they recognize as the sole legitimate representative of the Namibian people.

The two heads of state expressed concern over the prevailing situation in Chad and the Western Sahara. They mentioned the Middle East conflict and expressed the hope that a just and lasting solution will be found that takes into account the rights of the Palestinian people. They condemned the annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights by Israel and appealed to Iraq and Iran to settle their dispute by peaceful means. The Zambian head of state invited his Burundian counterpart to pay an official visit to Zambia and this was accepted by Colonel Bagaza.

MOZAMBIQUEPRESIDENT DEPARTS FOR OFFICIAL VISIT TO INDIA

EA081122 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0430 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Summary] President Samora Machel is to start his official visit to India today. It will last until 12 April. The Mozambique leader left Maputo yesterday evening, accompanied by his wife, Graca Machel, and Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano.

BRIEFS

BANK CHIEF IN MOSCOW -- The minister-governor of the Bank of Mozambique, Prakash Ratilal, arrived in Moscow yesterday to take part in a meeting of the international bank for economic cooperation, one of the CEMA banks. While in Moscow, the minister-governor also will hold talks with Soviet officials on strengthening cooperation between the two countries. [Text] [Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0600 GMT 5 Apr 82 EA]

FRELIMO-YUGOSLAV PROTOCOL -- Frelimo and the LCY [League of Communists of Yugoslavia] signed a protocol of bilateral cooperation in Maputo yesterday. The protocol was signed by a member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee for Ideological Affairs, Jorge Rebelo, and by Hamdija Pozderak, a member of the LCY Central Committee Presidium. Meanwhile, a communique was issued in Maputo yesterday on talks held between the Frelimo delegation and the LCY. According to the communique, the two parties reaffirmed their mutual interest in the further strengthening of mutual cooperation. [Text] [Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0600 GMT 2 Apr 82 EA]

TWO DISTRICTS RENAMED -- Choque is the new name for Limpopo district in Gaza Province. The decision to change the district's name was made by the provincial government in compliance with instructions given by President Samora Machel during his visit to that province. Gaza district is now renamed Xai Xai. [Text] [Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 6 Apr 82 EA]

ZIMBABWEREPUBLICAN FRONT WINS BYELECTION VICTORY

AB081540 Paris AFP in English 1444 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, April 8 (AFP) -- The Republican Front (RF) of former Prime Minister Ian Smith won a clear-cut victory in an important by-election for one of the 20 white-reserved seats in Zimbabwe's 100-member Parliament, according to official results announced here today.

The triumph by RF candidate Desmond Chalmers, a 32-year-old political neophyte, in yesterday's polling for the Western constituency maintained the white party's record of never having lost a seat in an election since it led the Rhodesian white rebellion against Britain in 1965 as the Rhodesian Front. Mr Chalmers, son of a former Rhodesian Front MP, took 330 votes to 63 for independent challenger Lawrence Bronson and 57 for Bill McLeod, candidate of the Democratic Party (DP), a breakaway group from the RF.

The vote total of 454 in a constituency with about 3,460 registered white, Asian and mixed-race electors betrayed a rooted apathy. Observers laid this to a feeling among voters that it mattered little who represents them now that Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's black government is in power with an overwhelming majority in Parliament. White voters have also been thrown into confusion by the formation of the DP and the defection last month of nine RF members of Parliament to become independents.

Nonetheless, the size of Mr Chalmers' margin showed that the RF is still a force to be reckoned with, and brought the party's parliamentary strength up to 11, as against the nine independents.

Mr Smith, contacted at his Salisbury home for comment, said the results showed, "the RF represents the white people of Zimbabwe" and that the voters had not allowed themselves to be "bamboozled or befuddled" by the nine defectors or by Mr Mugabe's encouragement for an anti-RF vote. The western by-election must have come as a "shock" to the nine, Mr Smith said.

Mr Bronson, the second-placed candidate, remarked that "this shows there is still some unity among the whites. It is very necessary at this time."

The by-election for the seat vacated by the resignation last December by RF MP Alex Mosely was the fourth since independence two years ago and the third in which the RF candidate had been opposed. In another earlier this year the RF man was declared elected after the DP candidate's nomination papers were adjudged out of order.

All three times, the RF has won a solid victory despite Mr Mugabe's exhortations to whites that racial reconciliation will be much easier if Mr Smith's party is given a rebuff.

Despite this victory, observers noted, the endorsement given the RF is less than ringing because of the small turnout -- just 13 per cent of the registered voters.

Mr Smith had campaigned personally for Mr Chalmers in the final days before the election in the vast constituency, which stretches from Bulawayo more than 400 kms (250 miles), over an area with few white inhabitants, to the tourist resort of Victoria Falls.

The former prime minister, who has headed the RF since 1964, has been extremely critical of Mr Mugabe recently. He told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in an interview last month that Mr Mugabe had refused to see him since he expressed opposition to the prime minister's desire for a one-party state, and accused the Zimbabwean leader of mouthing reconciliation but not practising it.

Two of the 11 RF members of Parliament are not presently able to take their seats because one, Wally Stuttford, is in prison on suspicion of plotting against the government, and the other, Denis Walker, has fled the country to avoid arrest.